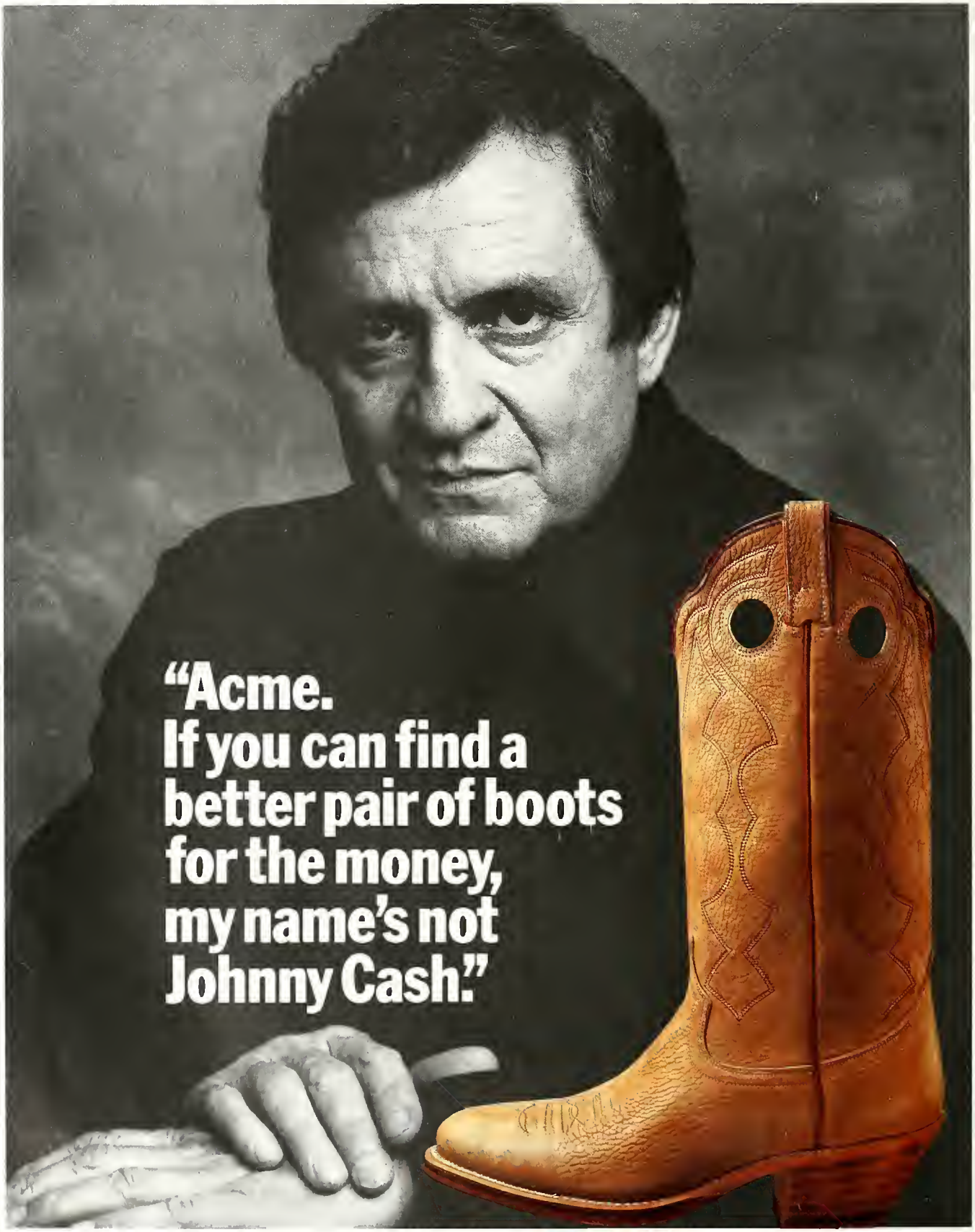
The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

August-September, 1984

Inside this Issue: The Spirit of Rodeo
A Taste of Victory



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The National
Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

August-September, 1984
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A Word With The Editor

"In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard."
—Theodore Roosevelt

You've probably been involved in at least one FFA contest since you've been in vocational agriculture. These contests can be a lot of fun, but there's a greater reason for holding them. Contests can motivate you to learn a skill and gain more knowledge of agriculture. And, if you're the best, you'll be recognized for your accomplishment.

When you're in competition, whether as an individual or with a team, remember: your most challenging opponent may be yourself. If you can say you've done your best, you've really "hit the line hard"; then you should feel satisfied no matter what the outcome.

You'll see several articles in this issue which deal with competitive events, such as our rodeo article on page 14, or the story of an FFA chapter from California which routinely wins national FFA judging contests, on page 18.

Oftentimes success of a team depends on both the players *and* the coaches, as you'll see when you read about Bill Ruh, Michigan state horse proficiency winner, who leads a fascinating life as a racehorse trainer. His story begins on page 13.

But competition—at least in FFA—should not become so important that it comes in the way of friendships. "Alex Goes to FFA Camp" is a loving, lighthearted story of two FFA friends who venture off to FFA camp to battle "man-eating spiders" and end up involved in an FFA contest—against each other. It's a fun story with a valuable lesson for us all. I'm willing to bet you'll find the results just as rewarding as any trophy.

Wilson Carnes

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It could be the last scene in any western movie, but this sunset belongs to Scott Heath and Chris Lee, relaxing after a long day at a high school rodeo. See page 14 for more on this popular sport.

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The FFA
News in Brief

GOOD NEWS FOR FFA members who want to buy a show animal from dairy farmers participating in the milk reduction program: the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service department of USDA has announced that participating dairy producers may sell a single animal to youths who use the cow or calf for a class or club project. "I thought it was ridiculous to prevent selling of a single show animal to a 4-H or FFA member," says Rep. Wes Watkins, D-Okla., a former FFA member, who introduced the legislation last March.

PLANS FOR the 57th National FFA Convention, to be held at Kansas City, November 8-10, are shaping up quickly. According to Tony Hoyt, FFA program specialist for leadership, three speakers have been confirmed: sports commentator Pat Summerall, TV personality Art Linkletter and motivational speaker Mamie McCollough. These speakers are sponsored through the National FFA Foundation by Cotter & Company, International Minerals & Chemical Corporation, and the American Bankers Association.

BOAC PROGRAM CITED: the FFA's Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program has been named a finalist for the President's Volunteer Action Awards program, according to the *BOAC Extra*, published by BOAC sponsor R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc. BOAC was one of 70 programs singled out from almost 2,500 nominations submitted for the final judging process. This is the third straight year FFA chapters with top-notch BOAC programs have been recognized.

TWO NEW VOTING members of the National FFA Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees attended the annual July meetings in Alexandria, Virginia. Floyd Doering, Wisconsin state supervisor, succeeds Illinois state supervisor Bill Shreck, and Lee Traver, state supervisor from New York, replaces Bill Dannenhauer of Delaware. Both men will serve two-year terms on both boards.

THE NATIONAL FFA Foundation reports the following recent sponsors of FFA awards, programs and activities: Homelite Division of Textron, Inc., Leading Edge Products, Inc., Louis Dreyfus Corporation, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Ralston Purina Field'n Farm Brand Dog Meal, Santa Fe Industries, Inc., TSC Industries, Inc., Church & Dwight Company, Inc., Idaho First National Bank, 3M Animal Care Products, Bunge Corporation, The Chase Manhattan Bank of North America, Mormar Consulting and Great Lakes Chemical Corporation. It is through support from these companies and others like them that FFA can offer so many awards and programs.

JOHN DUTCHER, from Salem, Ohio, has assumed duties as editorial intern for *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. The ten-week internship will give Dutcher experience in writing and editing and taking photographs for feature articles in the publication.

THE WORK EXPERIENCE Abroad (WEA) program sent 43 FFA members to work and live on European farms and agribusinesses in June, according to FFA European Coordinator Molly Mitchell. Many students will spend three to six months at these European farms, but some have decided to spend as many as 18 months abroad, traveling and living with host families around the world. Below, FFA members saw the Eiffel Tower on a nine-day tour of Europe before their programs began.

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The Mailbag

Thanks

Gee Whiz! I'm quite the celebrity in my chapter now. The article was great (A Smart Set of Values, June-July, 1984). I had an excellent time on my trip to the European countries, but I'm glad to be back home.

Melissa Sherman
Fallbrook, California

Student body presidents

I thought you might like to know that David Alders, 1981 national FFA vice president from the Southern Region was elected student body president at Texas A&M University. Although I do not know if it is a national "record," it probably is an A&M one. David makes the fourth former national officer elected student body president at A&M in an eight year period. Those included: Bobby Tucker, Ken Johnson, David and me, all of whom hail from a 50-mile radius.

Frederick D. McClure
Washington, D.C.

Florida agriculture

I am a member of the Bartow Junior High FFA and I try to be as active as I can. The subject I wanted to ask you about is why not have more articles on central Florida FFA members. A lot of citrus and cattle are produced in this area. My family produces citrus and we are very active in taking care of it.

Mike Baker
Bartow, Florida

Thanks for the suggestion, Mike. With so many outstanding FFA members all over the country it is sometimes difficult to interview them all. If you think you have a good article idea, why not write it and send it in yourself? Good luck!—Ed.

Lots of leadership

I'm writing to commend you on your spectacular article in the April-May issue about the Washington Conference Program. I was one of the 1,600 FFA members to be lucky enough to go to the WCP. I found this program helped me so much. I would recommend that anyone who could go to the WCP should because the program is terrific.

Kim Manno
Warwick, New York

Soil conservation

I am a freshman at the University of Vermont majoring in plant and soil science. For the past four years I have been a member of the FFA and am still actively involved in my state.

Along with my past interest in agriculture from participation in the FFA, I have become increasingly aware of the need to save our agricultural land, specifically, our prime farmland. It is hard for me to understand how the loss over the years has been overlooked, but it is comforting to know that state and national governments do have programs in effect to save this land.

Michael Cardarelli
Westborough, Massachusetts

Feedlot feedback

I am very pleased with the article "A Feedlot for His Future" (April-May, 1984). This particular article makes a person want to strive for the future. I feel that borrowing $140,000 is quite a bit of money to spend for 200 acres at the age of 19, but Scott has put it to good use. I think that Scott has his work cut out for him. He set a goal and I feel like he will achieve it.

Lisa Dibler
Weatherford, Oklahoma

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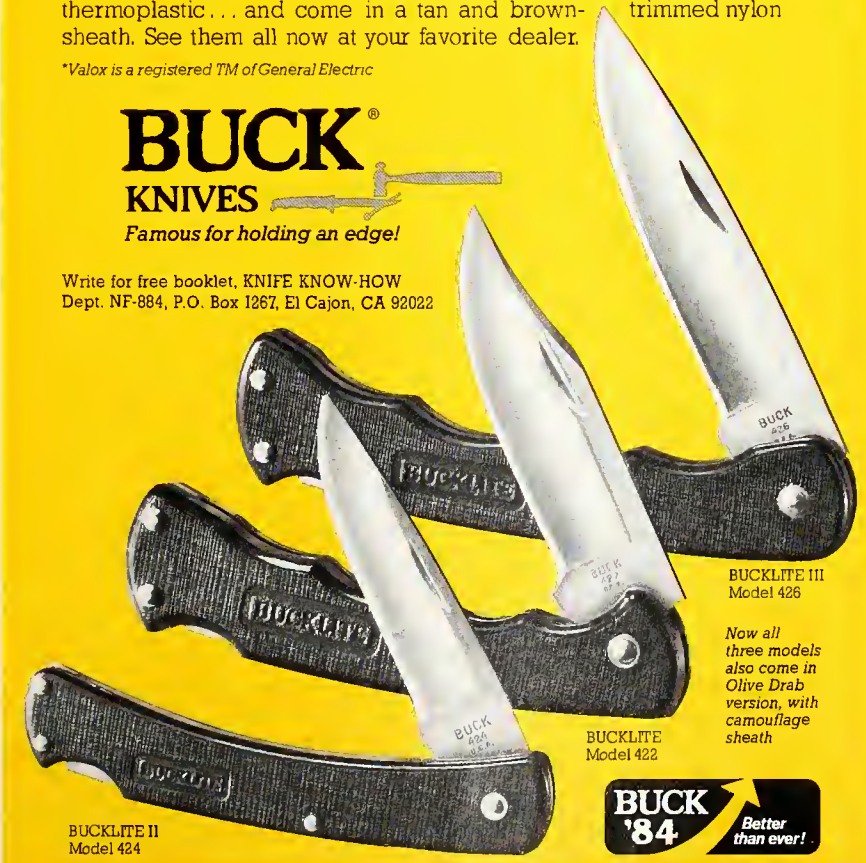

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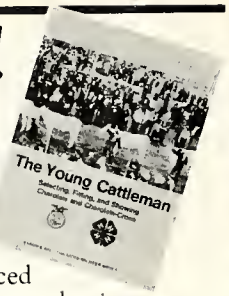

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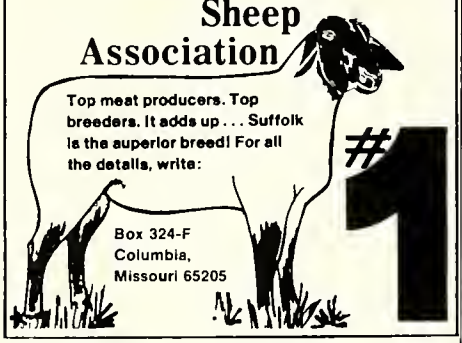

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Above, this youngster welcomes back Farm on the Lawn with a smile.

Return of

Farm on the Lawn

Here's how FFA members and advisors brought back an event they believed in and kept an FFA tradition alive.

By John Dutcher

WHEN an FFA event for grade school children in the Washington, D.C., area was dropped last year, some little people were upset in a big way.

No more pigs, chickens, horses, cows or tractors on the grass at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. No more "Farm on the Lawn."

Not until it was revived this summer, that is.

Farm on the Lawn had been an annual event hosted by the National FFA Organization to let urban grade school students see farm animals, machinery and agricultural products. It provided basic information on food and fiber production in terms youngsters understood.

Farm on the Lawn began on a small scale in 1974. By the time the program was dropped in 1983 for financial reasons, it had grown into a two-day event attended by nearly 5,000 children.

Luckily, Farm on the Lawn came back to life this year, thanks to the hard work of advisors and members from nearby FFA chapters.

"I was pretty excited to hear it was coming back," says Gary Monroe, 17, an FFA member from Woodstock, Virginia. He heard the news from FFA Advisor Joe Fleming, who helped get the program reinstated.

After laying groundwork with staff at the National FFA Center, Mr. Fleming was given the go-ahead to organize.

Mr. Fleming enlisted 14 Virginia FFA chapters to plan and provide exhibits. Invitations sent to grade schools in the Washington, D.C., area were met with enthusiasm. School administrators, teachers, students and FFA chapters were glad there would be another Farm on the Lawn.

Mr. Fleming says it took about 70 hours of planning and preparation to move 54 FFA members and advisors, three tractors, a trailer load of livestock, pens, exhibits and camping equipment to the National FFA Center for the early summer event.

FFA Information Intern Laura Nelson assisted with the project and arranged for paramedics, restroom facilities, drinking fountains and food for the FFA members who camped overnight at the Center.

"I was nervous up to the last minute," Mr. Fleming says. "But once I saw the last exhibit put together and the first bus roll in the driveway, I knew it would go all right."

It went more than all right. The ag teachers and students who worked at Farm on the Lawn were greeted by the delighted squeals of 4,462 kids who wanted to see, touch and, yes, even smell farm animals.

Mr. Fleming was pleased. "My only regret was that I didn't have more time to spend with the kids," he says. He offers some advice to other chapters who are interested in planning similar events, such as children's barnyards.

Make sure you:

- Invite schools early
- Provide plenty of parking
- Construct secure pens
- Have paramedics available
- Keep animals in the shade
- Provide an adequate number of restroom facilities.

Most of all, Mr. Fleming adds, take time to enjoy the magical experience of watching kids learn the sometimes untold story of agriculture. •••

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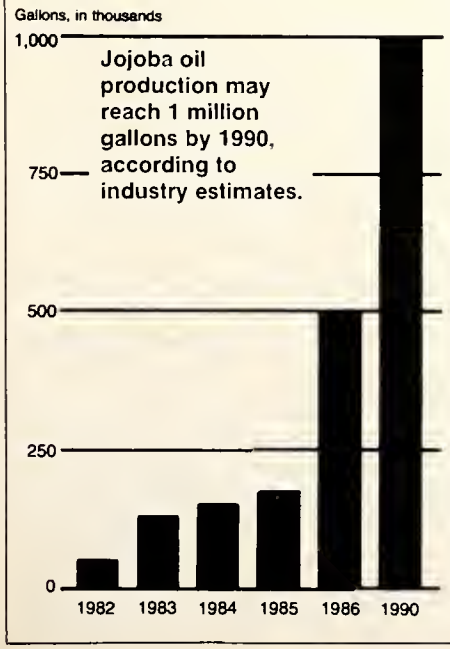
Looking Ahead

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY week is scheduled for September 16-22. Your chapter can get involved by ordering materials from the National Safety Council, 444 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. For a small fee the council offers the *Farm Safety Week Kit*, and the *Farm and Ranch Safety Guide*, along with several posters, brochures and slide shows to aid you in planning safety programs.

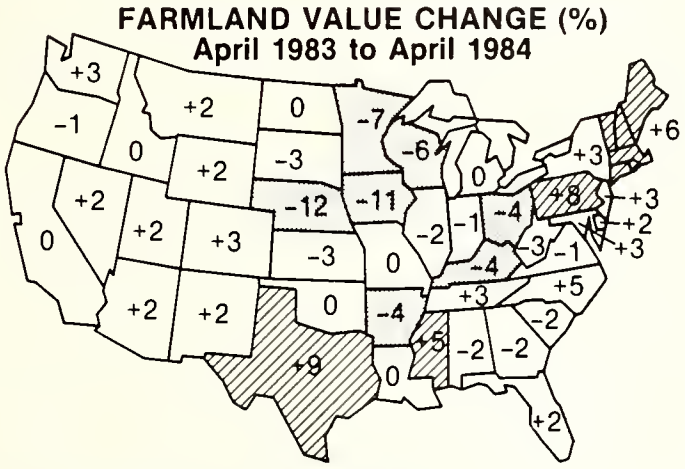
IT'S GOING ALL TO PIECES: the broiler industry, that is. According to extension food product specialists at North Carolina State University, consumers are finding fewer whole, ready-to-cook broiler chickens in retail stores as a result of increased demand for specific parts. Some processing firms already process 100 percent of their chickens into cut-up parts. This lets consumers do "selective shopping"—buying only the parts they want or need.

OIL CROP OF THE FUTURE? *Jojoba,* (pronounced *"ho-ho'-ba"*) is a perennial desert shrub that could take the oilseed market by storm, according to USDA. Jojoba grows wild in desert areas of California, Arizona and Texas. It produces seeds which yield about half their weight in an oily liquid similar to sperm whale oil, once prized by U.S. industry as a lubricant. Larger production, lower prices, greater assurance of availability and price stability is what most growers think it will take to get industry interested in jojoba. For now, jojoba is too expensive for industry use—it sells for around $45 per gallon.



YOUR FARM LABOR could be worth up to $5,000 per year to your parents, according to Virginia Tech family and child development specialists. Research conducted on 46 farm mothers with children ages nine to 19 years old showed nearly one-third of the mothers interviewed valued their children's labor at $1,000 to $3,000 a year. Fifteen percent performed work the parents said had a worth of $3,000 to $5,000 a year based on the cost of hiring someone to do their child's work. In a related study, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says the current unemployment rate among white farm youth is about 12.4 percent, compared to 19.9 percent for white youth who live in metropolitan areas.

FARMLAND VALUES: DOWN again in 1983. Although the drop was only 1 percent nationwide, it represents the third straight annual decline in farmland prices. According to USDA, that's the first time this has happened since 1933. Hardest hit were states in the Great Lakes area, Corn Belt, Northern Plains, Appalachian and Southeastern areas. Sharpest declines were found in: Nebraska, down 12 percent; Iowa, down 11 percent; Minnesota, down 7 percent; and Wisconsin, down 6 percent.



PCA/Farmer Partnerships Pass 50-Year Mark

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Since Production Credit Associations (PCAs) became active lenders in the mid-1930s, working relationships between farmers and the PCAs have become as common as farm-fresh products.

PCAs historically play an active role in training and developing agricultural managers by supporting members and activities of the Future Farmers of America. They continue to do so through loans to FFA chapters and individual members.

Since early 1983, PCAs carried 23 percent ($20.1 billion) of the nation's total agricultural outstanding debt ($87.3 billion). Only commercial banks carried a greater percentage of this debt, 41.4 percent ($36.1 billion), according to agricultural lending sources.

Nearly one-fourth of PCA member borrowers were young farmers and ranchers at the start of 1980. About 24 thousand (6.3 percent) were under 25 years of age.

PCAs were founded in 1933 by the Roosevelt Administration after nearly 80 years of discontent and turmoil in agriculture. Because of the Farm Credit Act of 1933, the PCAs were able to bring the money gathering and distribution facilities of the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks into the mainstream of American agriculture. It also created a method for repaying the "seed" money the government used to create PCAs. This money was repaid by 1968.

Between 1933 and 1983, PCAs introduced several lending innovations. Most are common practices among agricultural lenders today. PCAs were the first to base credit on five factors instead of just the repayment ability of the borrower. These five factors are: the borrower; financial position and progress; repayment capacity of the farm or ranch; purpose of the loan; and the basis of loan approval along with collateral.

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He Trains Winners

This FFA member trains racehorses like a coach readies athletes for the Olympics.

By Michael Wilson

WHOOOOSH! Thundering hooves kick up a spray of dirt and sand as a powerful Standardbred trotter roars by. Not impressed, the driver of the two-wheeled "bike" behind the steed urges the horse to greater speed, barking commands, holding the lines rigid as the twosome—man and horse—round yet another corner of the training track.

Soon the horse slows its pace, as the driver ends the workout. Bill Ruh, of Centreville, Michigan, steps off the sulky. Bill, 17, is a horse trainer, and a pretty good one at that. His philosophy is that racehorses should be treated like athletes in training. And like any top-notch coach, he keeps a careful eye on the "athletes" he works with.

"What some people don't understand," Bill says, loosening a halter, "is that each horse has its own personality, just like a human. It's my job to find out what that personality is and to work with it. Each horse is a challenge."

His words flow quietly, revealing a patient, gentle manner—a contrast from the high-charging, nervous energy Bill looks for in a champion racehorse. But beneath Bill's soft-spoken voice is a persistence and dedication to the horse-training profession. Get him started on the subject of horses, and the knowledge tumbles out like water from a spigot.

Bill's dedication and skill has paid dividends in FFA. He recently earned Michigan's horse proficiency award, sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association. His horse-training responsibilities also netted Bill the Michigan Star Agribusinessman title this year.

Bill credits his boss, Rob Thomasma, for the opportunity to train horses. Mr. Thomasma is owner and operator of "Thomasma Stables," a prestigious horse breeding and training ground. The stable itself is not glamorous, but the 55-acre farm does include a standard-length training track where the two trainers often take horses for workouts. Unlike most racing stables, the Thomasma operation breeds, raises and trains its own horses for sulky racing—a $35 million business in Michigan, according to the stable owner. The stable trains 15 Standardbred horses for trotting and pacing events in *pari-mutuel* and county races, about 50 competitions yearly.

"We don't want to get too many horses that we can't pay personal attention to each of them," cautions Mr. Thomasma. "We have to be able to devote time to 'reading' the horse's personality.

"We consider that to be the most important aspect of the job."

More Decision-making

Unlike most FFA members, Bill never grew up on a farm. He began working around horses six years ago when he was hired by a local trainer as a stable hand. "My first boss convinced me I should get involved in ag class," says

(Continued on Page 38)

Right, trainer Bill Ruh says each racehorse has its own personality, "just like humans."

Photos by Author

Above, Bill Ruh urges a Standardbred trotter on to greater speeds during one of many workouts on the practice track.

The Spirit

FROM the dust, saddle sores and hardships of the Old West, a sport was born in America. Once a cowboy's pastime between roundups, it has grown into a highly competitive, rough-and-tumble sport which echos the skills of men who tamed the west.

We're talking rodeo, Pilgrim. A whole passel of events where contestants test courage and the seams of their jeans to see who can rope fastest, ride longest and "rassle" critters the best. Fortunes, friendships and even a few rivalries have grown out of this competitive spirit.

In this series of photos, Scott Heath shows his three-step approach to steer-wrestling , while rodeo partner Chris Lee cheers him on.

You'll find that spirit among teenagers who compete in high school rodeos throughout the year. "We've got a pretty good chance to win this year," says Scott Heath, 18, from Carrollton, Georgia. Scott and his partner Chris Lee, 14, compete in team roping and calf roping —just a few of the many high school rodeo events.

The two FFA'ers are mem-

Photos by Michael Wilson

# of Rodeo

By John Dutcher and Michael Wilson

Each summer, high school cowboys and cowgirls test courage and the seams of their jeans to see who can rope fastest, ride longest and rassle critters the best.

bers of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA), a 16,000-member half cowboys and half cowgirls, organization, which sponsors rodeos for high school students in Canada and the United States. Many people like Chris and Scott are members of both NHSRA and the Future Farmers of America.

Scott and Chris prove rodeo is no longer just a western sport. And although Georgia is not what you might call a "typical" rodeo state, these two love the sport as much as any westerner.

"I've been roping since I was nine," says Scott. "Chris and I go to rodeos all over the southeast when we can." Since they both live on livestock farms it's easy to practice their skills every day at home.

Although Scott and Chris like the rodeo scene, neither plans to make it a career. "You've got to be real good at rodeo to make a living at it," Chris says.

One cowboy who *does* plan to make a living in rodeo is K.C. Jones, 16, an FFA member from Powell, Wyoming. K.C. is "one of the hottest cowboys in high school rodeo," say rodeo authorities. K.C. began riding the rodeo circuit at an early age with the help of his father, who once made rodeo his livelihood.

"My dad told me when I started, 'If you're going to do it, you're going to have to be good at it,'" says K.C.

K.C. *is* good at it. He's already won nine all-around cowboy titles in Wyoming. He is determined someday to take his place in the small fraternity of about 200 cowboys that *does* make a living off rodeos.

If K.C. continues his current streak, he could soon be one of them. At a two-day rodeo in Billings, Montana, he won over $1,000 in prize money, two belt buckles and a saddle. Not a bad couple of days' work.

Dollars and Sense

In case you get the impression the sport is easy money, a word of caution: rodeo is *not* cheap.

"Ropes are $20 apiece," says Chris. "A good saddle can cost as much as $800."

Horses are the big expense. K.C says a horse that is well trained in one event can cost anywhere from $2,000 to $2,500. If a horse can compete in two events, such as team and calf roping, then the price tag goes up to $3,000—$4,000. Multiply those costs a couple thousand times and they begin to add up.

In addition, a recent NHSRA survey shows that teenage cowboys and cowgirls spend about $1.4 million in gasoline and oil traveling from one rodeo to the next each year. An estimated $1.2 million is spent on feed for rodeo stock. Also, their blue jeans do see a lot of wear and tear—an estimated $320,000 is spent on new ones each year.

Besides taxing your pocketbook, rodeo can also be hard on your body. Wild horses, bulls and sharp horns add a dangerous dimension not found in many

(Continued on Page 24)

Below, K.C. Jones shows his calf-roping skills which have taken him to the Finals three times. *Photo by Dennis Davis*

Below, Chris, left, and Scott, right, talk with a fellow cowboy at the Georgia state finals.

Farm Tools of the '80s?

Functional and fun, the ATV seems to have found its place in agriculture. The list of its uses is a country mile long.

Above left, Don Hanson and his homemade sprayer unit. Above, Andy Buell, a Quincy, Michigan, FFA member, uses his ATV for chores and small loads.

By John Dutcher

FARMERS and ranchers are discovering that doing the same old chores each morning doesn't have to take quite as long as it used to—they're loading up their saddlebags and, if you will, "lettin' the good times roll."

The machines saving their feet from the onset of corns and their backs from toting and fetching are called All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

ATVs, developed in the late 1960s, look like a cross between a motorcycle and a lawn and garden tractor. Once thought to be the "ugly duckling" of motorcycles, the ATV has come into its own as the workhorse and breadwinner of the industry.

"The agriculture community continues to be one of our major markets," says Honda spokesman, Wayne Toyota. "The ATV is extremely useful around the farm. Farmers never seem to run out of ideas on uses for it."

Farmers and ranchers are using ATVs to check herds, mend fences, run errands and tow light loads, industry spokesmen say.

ATVs are now built in three- and four-wheel models, with many accessories available, by most motorcycle manufacturers. In some cases, it's the accessories that make ATVs particularly appealing for around-the-farm use.

Kawasaki offers a sprayer attachment which can be used for either rowcrops or orchards; two types of utility trailers; racks and whip antennas (long antennas with orange flags for on-road use). Others offer toolboxes, baskets and saddlebags.

But agriculture has always been the realm of the do-it-yourselfer. Don Hanson, a Kingdom City, Missouri, farmer is a prime example. From a few odds and ends, he built a 54-foot sprayer to pull behind his ATV and "run across the mud, not through it." Hanson says he likes his ATV because, "it's a handy overall vehicle." He uses it for most of his spraying and to plant clover seed.

MOORE: "The recession really hurt the motorcycle industry. People wanted to buy shoes and food—not motorcycles. But, at the same time motorcycle sales were dropping, sales of ATVs really took off."

It's not all work for the ATV, according to one manufacturer. Although farmers may say they buy ATVs to "do small chores around the farm," many end up using the vehicle for farm-type work only about 40 percent of the time. The other 60 percent, they assume, is used for some fun laps in the south forty.

Kawasaki is happy with their new-found "friends" in agriculture. From 1981 to early 1983, 45 to 55 percent of their ATVs were sold to farmers or ranchers. This accounted for what Kawasaki considered the "lion's share" of the agricultural market at that time.

"The recession really hurt the motorcycle industry. People wanted to buy shoes and food—not motorcycles. But,

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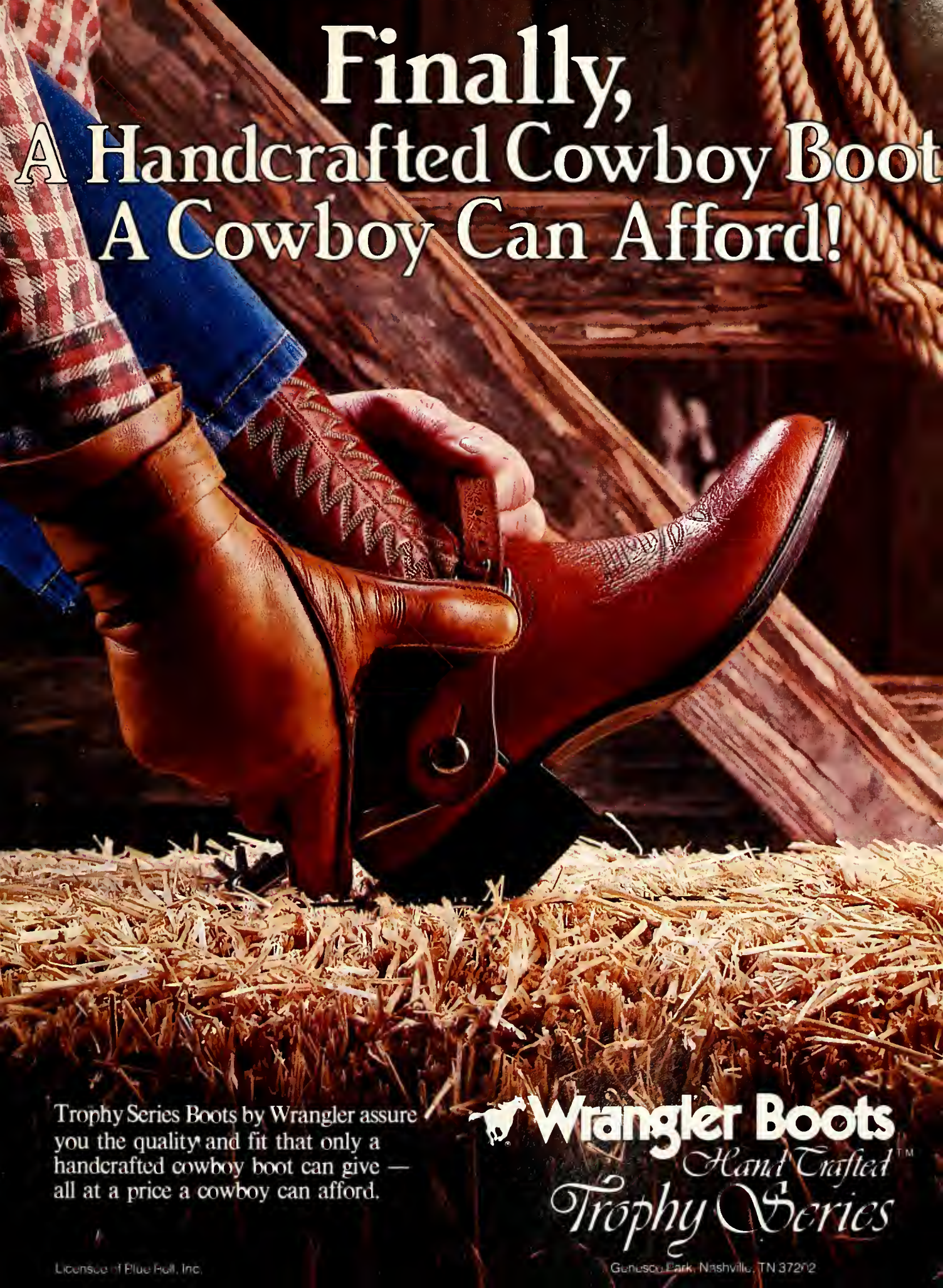
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A Taste of Victory

Photos by Author

Top, Hanford Instructor Dave De Silva, left, advises members of the 1983 Meats team, Ryan Champlin, Jeff Tolle and Kathleen Loya.

Above, milk quality teammates Suzann Cogdon, Robin Frye, Tracy Flores and Gina Giacomazzi. Left, the team tests many samples to prepare for a contest.

THE folks in Hanford, California, are pretty proud of their FFA chapter. Last fall, the school walked away with two—count 'em—two judging championships at the National FFA Convention. They've tasted victory more times in one year than you can shake a trophy at.

When it comes to judging contests, Hanford is what you might call a *powerhouse*. Consider the following feats:

- Hanford has sent at least one team to a national judging contest *each year* for almost three decades. Over 26 Hanford teams have made it to the top of the heap in California's ultra-competitive judging arenas.
- Hanford has come away from these national contests with no less than eight national titles—four in the last three years. Notably, the school won half those recent titles with all-women teams. Last year an all-women team topped 32 other teams to win the Milk Quality and Dairy Foods judging contest, while another Hanford team swept to victory in the Meats judging contest.

Hmmmm. What's your secret, Hanford?

"There's really no secret," says Dave DeSilva, Hanford vo-ag instructor and a coach for several events. "It's the preparation put in beforehand that makes the difference. If you're willing to put in the time, you can do it."

Indeed, practice is an important element behind any successful judging team. Mr. DeSilva says before the 1983 national contest the four members of the milk quality team (three contestants and an alternate) sniffed, tasted and tested over 1,000 samples of milk and dairy products. Members of the meats judging team fervently pore over meat products at local meat lockers.

But success hasn't happened overnight. It's a community and school tradition passed on from one generation of FFA members to the next. You can sense the FFA pride, both at the high school and in the community. "Some towns are known for football teams. Some have marching bands. We have our FFA chapter," says one Hanford native.

By Michael Wilson

A winning tradition echos in the halls of Hanford High, where FFA members turn practice and hard work into national judging titles.

It started in 1957 when an inspiring young ag teacher named Emile LaSalle began producing state-winning judging teams at Hanford. Support for the vo-ag program has swelled through the years, as FFA members came back to establish careers in the community. Not surprisingly, the community is located in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the richest agricultural areas in the world. Agriculture is the main item in Hanford.

DESILVA: "Our number one goal is to develop a skill. All of our judging teams are designed to help train for an occupation. If we are successful at a contest, that's just icing on the cake."

Community support becomes evident each fall when it's time to send a judging team or two off to Kansas City for the national finals. Last year the local ag boosters raised $10,000 for the teams' expenses.

A Winning Tradition

Students at Hanford are motivated to continue their chapter's winning tradition. Team members write down goals at the beginning of each year. Through coaching, each team is encouraged and motivated to excel. Mr. DeSilva, one of six vo-ag instructors at Hanford, says teamwork is stressed.

"Being high individual is great, but it's not most important," he says. "I want to know how well my *third* man did, not my top man. That's a real indication of how well your team will do."

Each time a Hanford judging team practices, coaches like to make the atmosphere as realistic as possible. Teams hold "mini-contests" to simulate actual events. Hanford teams train together, and most of the FFA members become close friends.

Hours of practice may mean sacrifices elsewhere. Workouts are so demanding students often find little time for other extra-curricular activities. Mr. DeSilva says, "We believe in the time and test theory. The more time you put in and the more efficiently you study in that particular area, the more successful you are.

"Most of our team members have high grade point averages," says Mr. DeSilva, indicating the high priority placed on academics.

Dedication pays off when the winners are announced at the end of a contest. But more important is the fact that judging skills lead to careers. Many FFA members discover a career interest in the classroom, and develop that skill through a judging team. Jeff Tolle, a member of the champion 1983 meats team, says, "I've learned skills from competing in a practical, 'hands on' way, skills I probably couldn't get in the classroom. I think that will help when it comes time to find a job."

Mr. DeSilva agrees. "Our number one goal is to develop a skill," he points out. "All of our judging teams are designed to help train for an occupation. If we are successful at a contest, that's icing on the cake."

Kathleen Loya, 19, has been involved in local, state and national contests in both meats judging and the milk quality/dairy products teams. Today, she is majoring in agricultural business at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo.

"For one thing, judging contests helped me decide to go into agriculture," she says. "My judging experience showed me so many different areas of agribusiness. And the team effort I learned gave me a chance to work with people. I think a person needs that in the real world.

"Individual awards give self-satisfaction, but the best part of winning is sharing it with someone."

Hanford critics say too much attention is placed on the competition itself, thus weakening the original goal of any FFA contest: *to learn.* And perhaps some of the criticism is justified. However, Mr. DeSilva is quick to point out that students *do* learn a great deal from judging events.

Jeff says, "Competition is a part of life. When you're out looking for a job, or already in a job, you're still competing with yourself to do even better."

In any event, the winning tradition goes on at Hanford. As Mr. DeSilva says, "We have a winning tradition, and we're proud of trying to keep that tradition alive." •••

Like Father, Like Daughter

RALPH and Kathleen Loya symbolize a family success story and the strong FFA tradition often found in Hanford, California.

Ralph is Kathleen's father. Twenty-one years ago, FFA'ers Ralph and brother Jesse Loya were featured in *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. The article told about the two Hanford boys' success at—you guessed it—judging contests. Ralph and Jesse helped three successive Hanford teams win state judging events.

Kathleen has followed in her father's footsteps in a most admirable way. She was high individual in the nation when the Hanford milk quality and dairy products team took first three years ago. Last year, she helped the Hanford Meats team take first place.

The entire Loya family, including Kathleen's younger brother Rick and her mother, Mary Jane Loya, are goal oriented. "We try to stress positive thinking and a winning attitude," says Mrs. Loya.

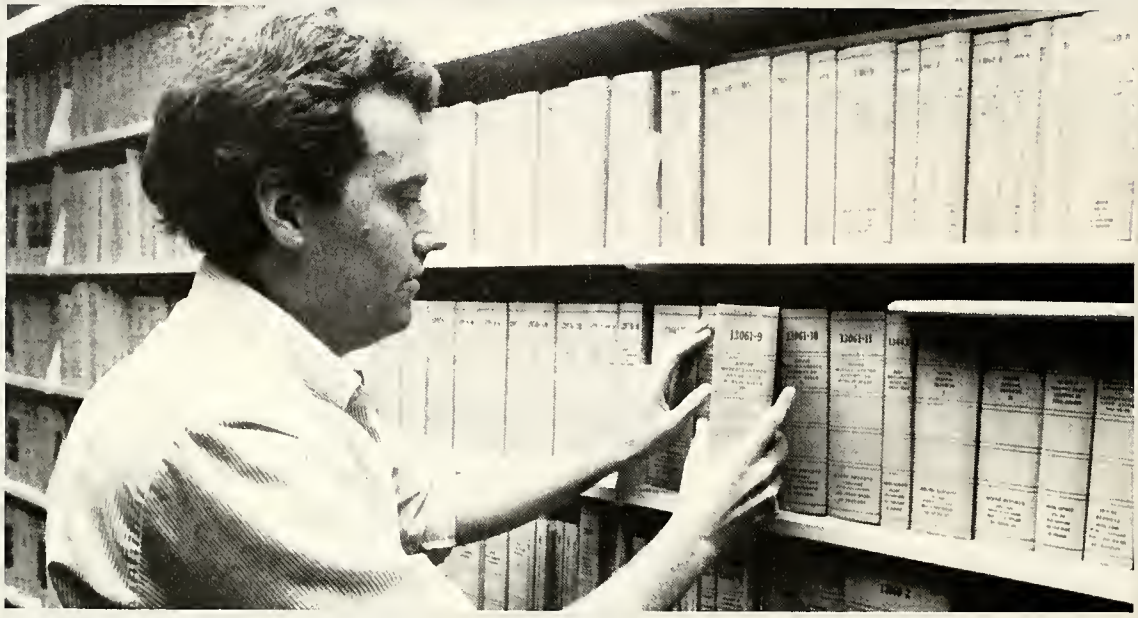
Mr. Loya was a vo-ag teacher at Hanford from 1967 to 1976. He now teaches agriculture at Kings River Community College. "When I was at Hanford I helped coach some buddies of mine," he says. "Now, I'm coaching some of their kids. It's tradition for many parents to say, 'When my son or daughter gets to Hanford High School he or she is going to be on the judging team.'"

Mr. Loya believes the same values he gained from judging contests are important to vo-ag students today.

"Where judging really helps is giving young people the ability to make decisions," he says. "You use this in every day life. It may be placing four animals or tasting milk, but really, it's teaching mentally that you *can* make a decision and have confidence in that decision.

"That builds character and confidence." •••

"Basically, all lawyers do is help people. They have to be willing to sacrifice their time and energy to take on other peoples' problems every day."



Ag Law

It's a growth profession. The complex nature of agriculture demands people who can help farmers and agribusinessmen solve their problems when they can't do it themselves.

By Shirley Jones

NOTHING against television writers, but TV is primarily the cause for one gross misperception among Americans: that lawyers spend all their time pleading with convicts in jail cells or beating their chests in front of clever old judges while the victim's mother weeps in the gallery.

Talk to a few people who spend their working days practicing law and you'll find out that what a lawyer really does, and what most of us *think* he or she does, is worlds apart.

One example is Dee Sokolosky, a former national FFA officer who works for a Tulsa, Oklahoma, law firm. Mr. Sokolosky says he spends much of his time writing documents, working with contracts, talking on the phone and keeping the client *out* of the courtroom.

"I thought it (being a lawyer) was spending the day in a courtroom making deep, passionate pleas about what I thought was right," says Mr. Sokolosky. "That's only 3 to 5 percent of your time unless you're a trial lawyer."

Sam Brownback, another former officer from Manhattan, Kansas, says the shock came when he realized early that most of his time would also be spent, not in front of a jury, but at a desk with pen in hand.

SOKOLOSKY: "I thought it (being a lawyer) was spending the day in a courtroom making deep, passionate pleas about what I thought was right. That's only 3 to 5 percent of your time unless you're a trial lawyer."

"I didn't have any idea about the time it takes for research," says Mr. Brownback, referring to the hours spent looking up documents and cases from the past. "It may take days to find a record you need to do the job properly."

However, "different than you thought it would be" is the mark of most professions. Messrs. Sokolosky and Brownback have discovered that the legal world is a positive challenge.

"Each day is a little different," Mr. Sokolosky says. "I'll be working on one assignment, like drawing up a contract or a will, and I'll get a call about something new that's come up." And, he acknowledges, there *are* occasions when he goes to court.

Mr. Brownback has found that working with people is a highlight of his profession. "When you are able to help people with something that means a lot to them, such as an adoption or some other problem, it is a good feeling because you know you are doing something worthwhile."

The process of becoming a lawyer begins with a college education. You must first earn an undergraduate or *bachelor's* degree in the major of your choice. Jake Looney, dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law, says

(Continued on Page 22)

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Ag Law

(Continued from Page 20)

the major you choose has little bearing on admission to law school.

"Choose a major in which you have an interest," says Dean Looney. "Students who major in agriculture are at no disadvantage." Prospective students take a test called the *Law School Admissions Test* (LSAT). Then they can apply to the school of their choice. Admission is based primarily on test scores and grades.

Once admitted, it usually takes three years of full time study to complete the coursework and earn the "Juris Doctorate," or "J.D." degree. Graduates then study for and take the *bar examination*, another test given by each state to license the lawyers who practice within that state.

Because of their interest in agriculture, many former FFA members-turned-lawyers end up as attorneys working in rural areas or agricultural companies and cooperatives. These lawyers often consider themselves to be "ag lawyers."

Dean Looney says there are two ways a lawyer can consider himself to be "agricultural." First there are laws that affect agricultural topics specifically, such as water rights or government regulations. There are also laws that affect everyone, but that require unique treatment when applied to agricultural subjects. Some examples are bankruptcy, estate and gift taxes.

FFA: Natural Training Ground

Dean Looney, a former FFA member and practicing attorney, says that FFA is a natural training ground for lawyers-to-be. He says FFA's leadership areas teach the kind of skills needed.

"You have to be open, not bashful," he says, "and a hard worker who is willing to be aggressive in pushing for a client's best interests."

For Mr. Sokolosky, the best training came with the organization of ideas and activities. "Everybody thinks the speaking will help you so much, but I think being chapter president or running the banquet is the best," he says. "You have to be thinking of everything at once.

"When you're a lawyer, the pressures are similar."

Mr. Sokolosky says good lawyers have the ability to recognize an issue or problem. They also have confidence, can cooperate with others, are punctual and have good writing skills.

Once established, what can attorneys expect to earn?

Many people believe all lawyers are wealthy. While the experienced attorneys do earn tens of thousands of dollars and up per year, new graduates command much lower earnings. According to an American Bar Association publication, starting salaries begin below $20,000 a year in some areas of the country. Top salaries in major city law firms start at $30,000 or $40,000 per year.

Demand in Rural Areas Strong

Francis Utley of the American Bar Association says the demand for lawyers in rural areas will continue to be strong. While schools make an effort to locate students in rural areas, the lure of big-city salaries means many graduates take jobs in metropolitan areas. "Relatively few are available to meet the demand that exists in the more rural locations," says Mr. Utley.

If you want more information about careers in law, write for a booklet, available for 40 cents, from: Information Services, American Bar Association, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

If you are interested in law but uninterested in becoming a lawyer, a career as a "paralegal" may be the answer. Paralegals, who serve as assistants to attorneys, perform many of the same functions. A list of legal assistant education programs may be obtained by sending a request to the Standing Committee on Legal Assistants, American Bar Association, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. •••

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The Story of John B. Stetson:

The Man Behind The Hat

To those who wear hats, "Stetson" is an institution. The story of the man behind the hat—John B. Stetson—is just as interesting as the hat which bears his name.

In 1830 a son was born to Stephen Stetson, master hat-maker from Orange, New Jersey. Named John Batterson Stetson, the boy was a late arrival in a family with 12 children. Although trained to follow in his father's footsteps, the boy could hope for little share in the small family business which older brothers were already taking over.

He was a self-educated, self-made man, and from the beginning his health was poor. Doctors gave him little hope for survival, but Stetson was determined to prove them wrong. He quit the family business to "get out into the open." He struck out for the far west, which in the late 1850s, meant Missouri.

After trying his hand at brick making in St. Joseph, Missouri, Stetson joined a party headed west to Pike's Peak. In spite of the hardships on the trail, his health began to improve.

Over the years Stetson hats have been more than just a shelter from wind and rain for the frontier cowboy. It was a whip, when needed, to urge his mount. In emergency, it watered his horse. And at day's end it fanned his campfire and became his pillow.

Legend has it that Stetson demonstrated the art of *felting* to his travel companions to prove that "cloth" could be made without weaving. He took animal skins and shaved off the fur. After cleaning it, Stetson made a mat of fur which he boiled. As the material dried, it shrank and formed a blanket of perfect felt which he used for shelter.

Stetson later made a hat for himself by the same method—a hat of unique design with a big, high crown and broad brim to protect him from sun and rain. A passing bullwhacker driving an oxen team saw the hat and bought it for a five-dollar gold piece. This was the first hat Stetson ever sold.

Stetson's party soon reached Pike's Peak, where he mined gold for a year. By this time he had become strong, ambitious, and had lots of ideas. He decided to head east where he started a business.

In 1865, Stetson rented a room in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He bought a few tools, purchased $10 worth of fur and, with $100 capital, began making felt hats. At first he copied styles of local merchants, but he soon tired of their designs. When he shaped a hat that was slightly different and took it around to dealers, they shook their heads. Hat styles, they told him, came from Europe, *not* Philadelphia.

Far from discouraged, Stetson then designed his own hat of the finest, softest felt. It weighed half as much as most felt hats on the market. A customer at a nearby shop purchased the hat, and the dealer ordered a dozen. Others followed, and Stetson's business was established.

"The Boss of the Plains"

One day, Stetson was reminded of the bullwhacker who paid him $5 for the crudely fashioned hat he'd made years before. Why not make a big, well-styled hat for westerners, Stetson wondered. The idea for "The Boss of the Plains" was born.

Stetson borrowed money and spent every last penny to buy materials for the venture. He sent a sample of the new hat to every dealer in the west, with a letter asking them to order a dozen. He sat back and waited. Sure enough, the orders came pouring in.

Over the years Stetson hats have been more than just a shelter from wind and rain for the frontier cowboy. It was a whip, when needed, to urge his mount. In emergency, it watered his horse. And at day's end it fanned his campfire and became his pillow.

That durability made the hat famous, and it has remained so to this day. Stetson hats have sat on the heads of Custer, Will Rogers and "Buffalo Bill" to name a few. Even great women of the west, such as Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane, wore men's Stetsons.

The Stetson has been called "the hat of the west" with good reason. It saw history made, and helped make it. •••

Reprinted and condensed from "The Stetson Century," courtesy John B. Stetson Company

Rodeo

(Continued from Page 15)

other competitive sports. K.C. advises would-be-bronco-busters to attend rodeo school and learn the safety aspects of the sport before they sign up for the first event.

"You don't want to start out making someone else's mistakes," he says.

"The people who get hurt in rodeo are the ones that just don't know when to quit a horse. They don't realize when they're in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Rodeo schools cost about $250 per two-day session. "They're worth every penny," K.C. says.

Still want to be a cowboy? Start practicing your skills, says K.C. He practices four to five hours each day during school, more in the summer. He gets up early each morning to practice team roping before school and then works hard at calf roping afterwards. He saves the weekends for "cutting" practice. Cutting is a rodeo event where the rider guides a highly-trained horse to move a herd of cattle.

The *Finals*: what the White House is to politicians, the NHSRA Finals are to young rodeo enthusiasts. Only 1,000 high school contestants make it to this climactic finish of the rodeo season. Last year, it took three days of non-stop action to get the cowboys and cowgirls narrowed down for the final events. After the dust settled, a handful were recognized as the very best in North America.

But perhaps the true "spirit" of rodeo can be found in the young people who *don't* make it to the finals each year. A former NHSRA student president says, "Many deserving members never even make it to this show (the finals) and yet they keep on trying. That is the whole spirit of high school rodeo—the desire to achieve and not give up." •••

Below, K.C. Jones plans to make a career out of rodeo. *Photo by Dennis Davis*

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Vehicles

(Continued from Page 16)

at the same time motorcycle sales were dropping, sales of ATVs really took off," says Mel Moore, a Kawasaki spokesman.

"They were really popular with farmers. For roughly $1,500, a guy could get a small utility vehicle. They also had accessories farmers liked," Mr. Moore says. "Now we can't build them fast enough."

Are ATVs *the* farm implements of the '80s? Yes and no say industry leaders. Although they recognize the growth and importance of agricultural sales, they stress that certain models are more adaptable to agricultural use than others.

Several manufacturers are starting to sell ATVs designed specifically for use in agriculture. In 1983, Honda sold 67,755 of its *Big Red*, a model designed for agricultural utility, according to Mr. Toyota. Big Red is one of 11 ATVs offered by Honda.

In a recent survey of Honda ATV purchasers, 20 percent of those who bought the vehicles said they did so for their businesses. Of those 20 percent, over 75 percent said their business was in agriculture.

For 1983, industry sources report that ATV sales doubled in annual growth rate from 30 to 60 percent. ATV sales will account for an estimated 30 percent of overall motorcycle industry sales this year.

ATV sales will account for an estimated 30 percent of overall motorcycle industry sales this year.

Safety

Industry spokesmen stress that consumers must realize the ATV was first designed as a recreational vehicle. They caution farmers and ranchers against towing weights that exceed the safe limit of the vehicle and neglecting to wear safety headgear.

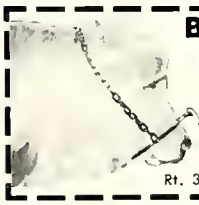
Mr. Moore encourages riders to use lower speeds if they aren't wearing headgear and to consult the owner's manual for the vehicle's towing capacity. "Overall, they're pretty safe to ride," says Mr. Moore.

The high gas mileage and relatively low maintenance is also attractive to consumers, according to Mr. Moore. He says that given its regularly scheduled maintenance, an ATV should last six to eight years easily. "Like any piece of machinery, it will last as long as you want it to," he says.

ATVs also have another big advantage: it can be recognized as a piece of "farm machinery" in the eyes of the federal government. This means farmers and ranchers can depreciate the cost of the vehicle just as they would any other farm implement and take that depreciation off of their federal income taxes.

All factors—good gas mileage, tax advantages, versatility and a price tag that's relatively low compared to other farm implements, seem to account for the rags to riches story of the ATV. It's basically a story of farmers seeing something they thought they could use and then adapting it to their operation—not all that uncommon an event in American agriculture. •••

If you would like more information on ATVs, Honda offers a brochure and film for their use and safe operation. The brochure, 3 Wheelin' For The Fun Of It *may be obtained by writing: Mary Barta, American Honda Motor Co., Inc., 100 West Alondra Blvd., Gardena, California 90247. To view the film, you can visit your local Honda dealer. Or, you can obtain a VHS or 16 mm film by writing or calling: Modern Talking Picture Service, 5000 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33709 phone (813) 541-5763.*



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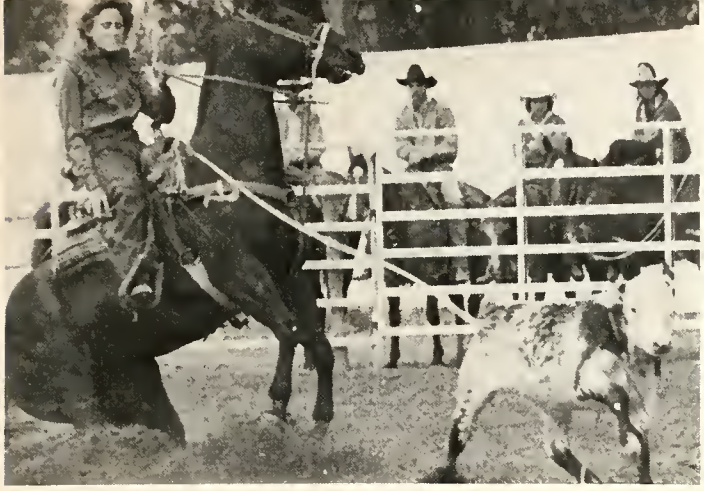

Goin' Down the Road

Melinda Kneale is one FFA member who has gone down the rodeo road and come back a winner.

By O. Fred Veach

BEGINNING last spring, near the small community of Maitland, Missouri, a willowy, young, high school girl loaded her horses into a trailer, and, as the rodeo people say, "headed down the road."

FFA member Melinda Kneale, 17, is no stranger to the road. She's been competing in rodeos since the age of eight, following in the footsteps of three older sisters.

What makes her special? Melinda doesn't just compete in rodeos—she wins. In what would be termed a short rodeo career, she has won 101 trophy buckles and plaques, plus eight saddles. Many rodeo contestants her age are still working on their first one.

The list of events Melinda has placed in or won is long; a list of her all-around titles is impressive. (To win an *all-around* title, a contestant must place in one or more events at a rodeo.) In Little Britches rodeos, she has won 12 all-around buckles and has gone to the finals seven years in South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. In 1983 she won the all-around in the finals at the American Youth Rodeo Association and six all-arounds at other rodeos. She was the state champion goat tyer, break-away roper and all-around cowgirl at the Missouri State High School Rodeo finals in 1983. She has won a total of 18 all-around titles in rodeo competition.

Melinda gives much credit for her success to a neighboring rancher, Chuck Powell, a former national director for the Missouri High School Rodeo Association, who helped get her started in rodeo. She also appreciates the support of her parents, Peggy and Lawrence Kneale, who are active members in the Missouri High School Rodeo Association and operate an 800 acre livestock/grain farm.

She also puts in a lot of effort on her own. During the season she tries to practice five hours per day, working through the six girl events: barrel racing, pole bending, break-away roping, team roping, cutting and goat tying. During the winter months, she practices in a local indoor arena.

Although rodeo takes up a lot of her time, Melinda always found time to take part in activities at the Nodaway-Holt Consolidated High School at Graham, Missouri. She was on student council, lettered three years in basketball, was a member of the school newspaper staff, stayed on the honor roll and, in 1983, was crowned homecoming queen.

Although she's been successful, Melinda still has mountains to climb. She has qualified for the National High School Rodeos three times, but has been plagued with bad luck. She'll get her last chance to qualify for the national finals this summer at regional rodeos and the state finals in Ozark, Missouri. So, for Melinda, it is back to the practice arena and, "see ya down the road." •••

Photos by Author

Above, Melinda in rodeo competition. Right, showing off some of her many awards.

The Lawns at Monroe Center are

Under New Management

When Steve McCammond bought another FFA member's lawn-mowing business, a change in ownership didn't mean a change in service to area residents.

By Michael Wilson

Left, Stillman Valley FFA members get small engines instruction from Advisor Larry Wesley, foreground.
Photo by Molly Mitchell

NOT many FFA members start their FFA project by buying a business from a former Star Agribusinessman.

But one who did is now facing the same challenges any other FFA member has in making a small business succeed. Steve McCammond, of Monroe Center, Illinois, is in the lawn mowing business today. Three years ago he got a loan from the local bank and bought out a fellow FFA member who moved on to new challenges in landscaping.

But wait, folks. The plot thickens. Steve bought the business from Tom Lichty, former central region star agribusinessman. Both Steve and Tom are from the Stillman Valley FFA Chapter; Tom also happens to be Steve's cousin, which may explain the smooth transition from one company president to the next.

Steve financed the buy out himself as

Left, Advisor Larry Wesley, right, catches Steve McCammond between lawn-mowing jobs in Monroe Center. Below, no job is complete without trimming the edges.

he entered high school. "I went over to the bank and talked to the people in charge," says Steve. "The loan officer gave me the loan because he knew about the business when Tom had it, and he thought it was a good investment."

In any case Steve has been busy mowing lawns, cemeteries and park districts ever since. One of the first things he had to do was win approval from some doubting regular customers.

"When Tom sold the business, quite a few people bought their own mowers. I don't think they knew I would work just as hard to do a good job," says Steve. Not one to balk at a challenge, Steve proved to the public he could provide a worthy service and help customers with lawn problems or needs. He's been able to pick up new business as a result.

Today, Steve has about 25 customers in the tiny village of Monroe Center. Between April and October you can usually find him on his John Deere 317 lawn tractor, zooming down the streets from one job to the next. Besides lawn work, Steve works part-time for Tom Lichty as a landscaper. He also fertilizes, trims, sprays for dandelions and routinely drags the Monroe Center ball diamond before baseball games. He's one reason why the township looks so neat and trim all summer.

The Secret is Service

Steve's business is service-oriented. He prides himself in his ability to keep customers satisfied. "Of course, some people are harder to please. Some have to have yards mowed a certain way," he says. "Some want their lawns mowed with a push mower because they don't like the lines made by the big mower. It takes longer, but if that's the way they want it done, I do it."

Steve's customers appreciate that attitude. Many are elderly folks who have other things to think about besides their lawns and hedges. "I feel I should be available pretty much anytime for their convenience," he says.

Along with the importance of good service is good value. "I like to make sure my customers are happy with the price I give them before I do a job," he says. Steve takes into consideration the size of the lawn, the number of obstacles to go around such as trees and any extra trimming. "I usually charge around $7 per lawn," he adds.

Fuel, labor and maintenance are his only major costs, and Steve's skills as a mechanic have helped him repair equipment which might otherwise be sent to a professional. He learned many skills in small engine classes under vocational agriculture instructor Larry Wesley. "A lot of it I picked up on my own, too," Steve explains.

All of those skills helped Steve earn the state FFA Turf and Landscape proficiency award, sponsored by O.M. Scott & Sons through the National FFA Foundation. This year Steve will be a senior at Stillman Valley. He has set a new goal to become the state star agribusinessman.

Steve admits the lawn-mowing business is not a life-long dream. Still, weekly lawn jobs added up to a tidy $3,000 profit last summer. And although he too may someday sell the business to his younger brother Shawn, Steve figures it's been a great experience so far.

"Being able to deal with people and manage money will help in whatever I do for a career," Steve explains. Most of all, Steve has learned to appreciate the independence of owning his own small business. As he puts it, "I feel good that I have the capability of doing this all on my own." •••

Below, one of the most important parts of Steve's job is providing customers with good service. Right, Steve sharpens a mower blade at the Stillman Valley vo-ag shop.

Photos by Author

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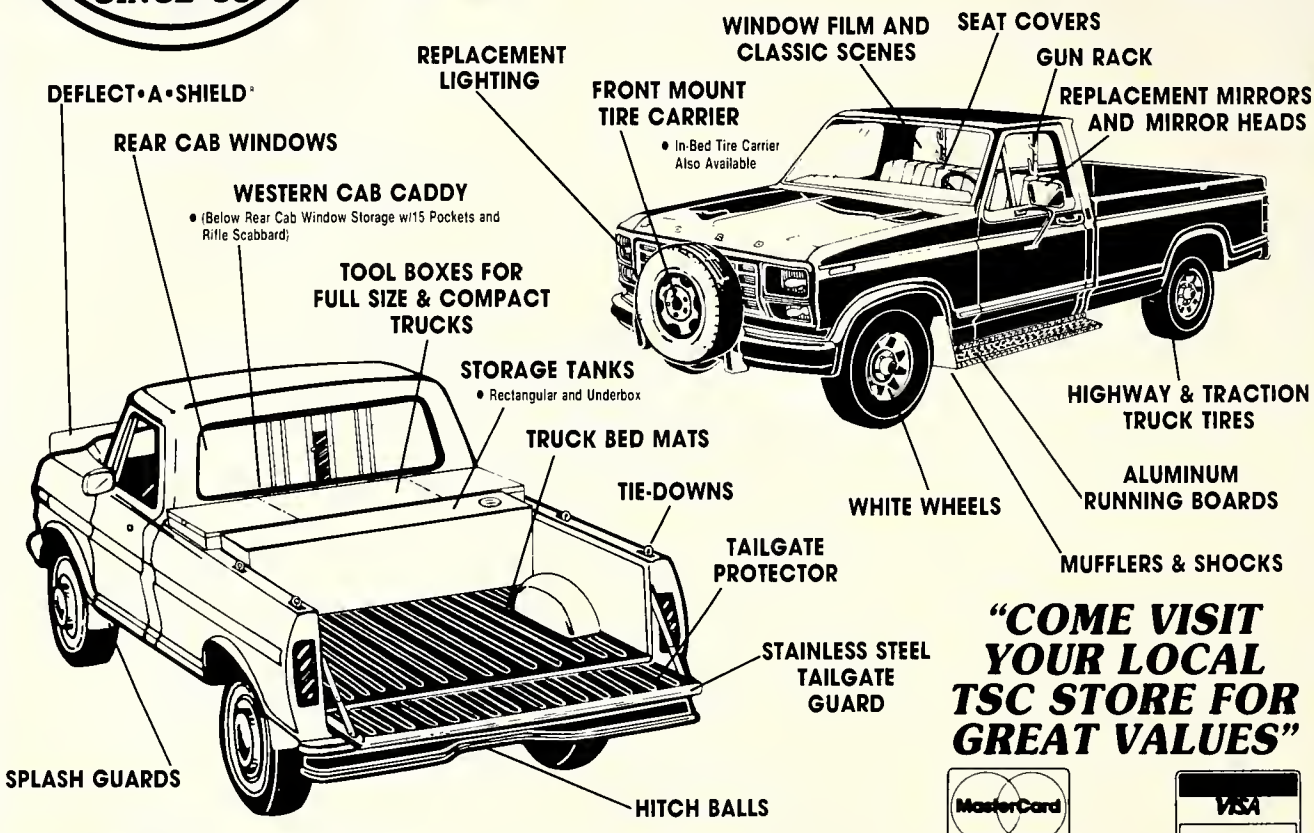

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Fire(wood) on the Mountain

These two FFA members turn dead trees into profitable chunks of wood.

WHAT possible good could two teenagers sporting FFA jackets and chain saws be doing, trompin' around a California mountain looking for trees to cut down?

In the case of Maxi Baay and Justin King, plenty of good. These two FFA members are in business together cutting and splitting wood as a Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) program.

Maxi and Justin are American Indians who live on a 35,000-acre reservation near Julian, California, an old gold-mining community near the Mexican border. These days, Julian's gold is in tourism; but the community is still rich with natural resources, particularly forest land and rugged mountains.

Many families are moving into Julian to escape the congestion of urban life along the California coast and to enjoy the breathtaking scenery. That growth has helped Maxi and Justin's business.

Since both Maxi and Justin live on the reservation, they know the forests like the back of their hands. They'll scramble up and down the steep slopes of the mountains in order to meet the growing demand for firewood, fenceposts and Christmas trees. As a result they're providing a service to their community, making a profit and gaining valuable experience for the future.

The business is unique in that any family registered to the reservation can cut firewood free. "We probably cut more wood than anyone else," says Justin. "Most people on the reservation just cut wood on the side."

Justin and Maxi own a beat up old truck for hauling wood. They also have several axes, mauls, wedges and a chain saw which are used for turning huge, dead trees into useful, little chunks of wood.

To save costs, the two often rely on their own mechanical ability for repair and maintenance. Maxi likes to show off the maul he fashioned out of a ripper tooth from a bulldozer. This particular piece of iron is used frequently for splitting fenceposts.

Labor is probably the most important cost to the business. If you can imagine what it's like to wind your way up and down crumbling old mountain "roads," over rocks and under low-hanging tree limbs that cut across steep terrain, then you can appreciate the dedication needed to get the job done.

Still, the resulting profits keep the two vo-ag students motivated. Justin says a cord of wood will sell for about $130 locally, and as much as $240 per cord near the metropolitan areas of San Diego and Los Angeles. The two began cutting four years ago, but the business didn't pay until each joined FFA and made it a supervised business project. Justin estimates the business grossed $15,000 last year.

Maxi and Justin's skills complement each other. They both like to build equipment in Julian's vo-ag shop. "Maxi is one of the best shop students I've got," says Alan Welch, Julian FFA advisor. "He's got all sorts of people waiting for him to build things." Mr. Welch says many of those people are involved in agriculture, an economic mainstay of the community. Over half of the 200 high school students in Julian are enrolled in vocational agriculture.

A Woodchopper's Skill

Maxi says there are certain things to look for in the wood cutting business: location and height of a tree, whether it has many limbs, and if the wood is knotty, making it difficult to split.

Keeping safe is especially important around falling trees and chain saws, so the two partners always practice good safety techniques. Justin says many factors are taken into consideration before felling a tree: wind direction, which way the tree leans, and where to "notch" the tree to ensure the direction of the fall. "We always make sure everyone is clear of the site before the tree comes down," he says. The two stay near each other for assistance in case something goes wrong.

Both Maxi and Justin plan to continue their wood cutting business as high school seniors this fall. But each say they hope the experience combined with their mechanical skills will lead to careers as equipment operators for the Forest Service. "My dad has done it all his life. It's something we've both been interested in," says Justin.

Meanwhile, if you happen to spot two FFA members trudging up a steep mountain incline seemingly headed for nowhere, just remember Maxi Baay and Justin King.

And watch out for falling trees. •••

Above, "notching" a tree to make it fall in the right direction. Below, Justin King, left, and Maxi Baay, right, take a moment to plan their day on the mountain.

News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

Zillah, WA, raised money to send two delegates back east to the Washington Leadership Conference ($2,400) with a hot dog sale at a food center on Memorial Day and Fourth of July.

N-N-N

For the past eight years, the office of secretary in the *Mississinawa Valley,* OH, Chapter has been held by a member of the Schmitz family—all cousins.

N-N-N

For the retirement of **Advisor Hawley** in *Corona,* CA, 109 alumni were present.

N-N-N

Missoula, MT, earned a nice fee for construction of two horse barns for a local businessman.

N-N-N

Kent Tevedal, president of *Wessington Springs,* SD, Chapter also is a wrestler and competed in an international meet with the West German national team. Kent exchanged his FFA cap as part of the ceremonial gift exchange between wrestlers.

N-N-N

Reward for top salesmen in the *Quitman,* MS, citrus sale was a cookout.

N-N-N

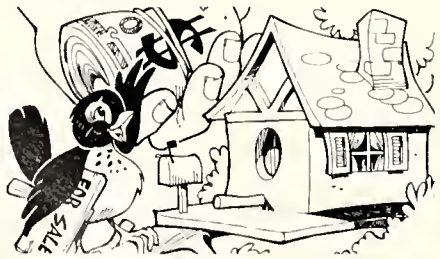
Former students of *Holdenville,* OK, FFA established a scholarship in honor of the advisor who founded the chapter 30 years ago—**Mr. Hugh Lacey.** This year's winner was **Steve Mathis.**

N-N-N

Cottonwood, MN, FFA has planted a trial plot with three varieties of oats with three different amounts of fertilizer on each variety. Like at a lot of other chapters, the seed, use of the land and machinery were donated.

N-N-N

Chelsea, VT, has an experimental garden to test 20 different varieties of sweet corn.



The *Fouke,* AR, Chapter is building several items to sell and the monies will go toward the state foundation, state camp renovation and the chapter's stock trailer fund. Items will include birdhouses, planters, gun racks and bookshelves.

N-N-N

Toulon, IL, FFA had a gilt successfully farrow 13 pigs in their ag shop. The idea seems to have caught on—two news items in the last issue "FFA In Action" column were about similar farrowing situations.

The Old MacDonald's Farm run by *Olympia,* WA, is a 21-year tradition. The event attracted 3,000 folks through the ag shop.

N-N-N

Now we've heard of cop-outs, but really. *Housatonic Valley,* CT, says they didn't really keep score at the alumni-FFA basketball game. It was just a fun battle that lasted from 7:30 til 9. Actually they confess that alumni won because they had some good players and taller ones too!

N-N-N

Robert E. Lee, TX, Chapter invited Principal **Henry Armstrong** to give the welcome at the banquet.

N-N-N

Everyone at the *North Clackamas,* OR, county fair weigh-in helped catch a steer that broke loose and ran through town but didn't get all the way to the main busy highway.

Glide, OR, had a work session to beautify a nearby cemetery according to **Jeff Mornarich,** reporter.

N-N-N

At the *Waverly,* NE, Chapter banquet they awarded $2,350 in scholarship and travel awards to seniors.

N-N-N

Lots of 1984-85 chapter reporters are getting in news items, like **Karl Krebs** from *Thomas,* OK, who sent news of the planned summer meetings on the first Monday of the month.

N-N-N

Another new reporter is **Terry Wilkerson** who sent three news items about the *Barlett,* TN, participation at state convention.

N-N-N

New reporter **Bart Haycraft** from *North Salinas,* CA, FFA sent a note and asked for advice as a newly elected reporter about news items for Scoop. Best idea is to submit items that are unusual or new ideas that were successful in your chapter.

N-N-N

Horticulture students at the *Moriarty,* NM, Chapter made trees for the junior-senior prom. The "trees" were dried branches with silk dogwood flowers.

N-N-N

Of the 60 head of cattle shown at the *Fruitvale,* TX, livestock show, most were Simmental and Brahman.

Kingwood, TX, members painted their steer barn during the summer.

N-N-N

During FFA Week, *Omro,* WI, FFA had a "wheels for ag" day and drove 16 tractors to school.

N-N-N

When **Cathy Calvert's** Duroc/York sow farrowed, there was no great surprise that the sow had 12 nice pigs. But *Lancaster,* CA, members were happy for Cathy when she discovered all 12 were gilts.

N-N-N

Hard and hot work planned for *Stevensville,* MT, FFA is a wood cutting day on their chapter 120-acre tree farm.

N-N-N

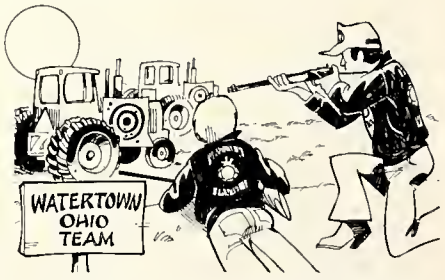
Besides giving three Honorary Chapter Farmer degees at the *Crook County,* OR, banquet, the chapter honored three local business firms for their support including the local radio station.

N-N-N

The *Deary,* ID, Chapter ran a spaghetti feed to raise money for the land judging teams' travels.

N-N-N

Officers of the *Olathe,* CO, Chapter are selected after completing an application and going through a screening committee consisting of last year's officers and the advisor. They nominate a slate and members vote.



Pat Jones and **Alan Porter** are the team from *Waterford,* OH, competing in the state tractor trouble-shooting competition.

N-N-N

A successful new venture for the *Sullivan,* IL, Chapter is a donation consignment auction. Members brought baked good and other items plus local businesses contributed various items to auction. The FFA received $1,100.

N-N-N

Theme of the *Symsonia,* KY, parent-member banquet was "never forget." Each officer carried out the theme by telling something they'd never forget about their years in the FFA.

N-N-N

You other reporters and officers out there. Don't let up. Keep the mailbox full of nifty ideas to share with other chapter and officer teams. Maybe even a little funny once in a while.

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Alex Goes To FFA

Whoever said it doesn't matter if you win or lose but how you play the game sure knew what he was talking about!

FROM my cot I could see them. Two huge spiders the size of buffalos marching across the ledge toward Mary Louise's pillow.

Excellent, I thought. We will soon hear a scream and have to spend the rest of the night dousing the cabin with bug repellent. Not even worth the pleasure of seeing Mary Louise blast out of her sleeping bag, I thought. I bashed the spiders in the head with my FFA manual.

My name is Alex. That's short for Alexandra. Mother encouraged me to be a proper young lady, but Daddy bought me a football when I came home from the hospital and dubbed me Alex the very first night.

Describing me without explaining Mary Louise would be unfair. She is my best friend and has been since the first day of freshman year in Mr. Samuel's ag class. When she first walked in, I thought she was the prissiest thing I'd ever seen. Christie Brinkley hair and Linda Evans clothes, and she talked like the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I couldn't stand her.

But then Mr. Samuel wanted to order FFA jackets and turned 80 shades of red trying to measure me. He wound the tape around my shoulders and neck and announced me a size 45. Mary Louise burst into laughter loud enough to shatter the trophy case and grabbed the tape herself to save me from looking like a sumo wrestler. We have been best friends ever since.

If we hadn't been such fast friends, it might have spelled civil war within our chapter. We were always competing for the same things. We both applied for Star Greenhand. I won. We both competed in public speaking. She won. We both ran for chapter president. Rob England snuck in there and beat us both.

It's no wonder then, that we both ended up at Camp Washington that summer, in a cabin overrun by man-eating spiders.

AT our state camp, there is a record player purchased in 1946. If you can think of anything worse than waking up to a howling version of the Lone Ranger song, I'd like to hear it. The first morning that sound came screaming over the public address system, I thought I'd been sent to a home for insane cats. Mary Louise groaned and tried to zip herself inside her bag, but zipped her leg instead and let out a screech louder than any mortal sound I've ever heard. I informed her we had to be at flag raising in 30 minutes. She tried to crawl back into her bag so I knocked her off and shook her out onto the floor.

As we stumbled our way down to the volleyball court where the flag pole was planted, I took a look at the rest of the campers. Everybody had that "I'd rather be anywhere but here" look that comes with the first day of not knowing anybody. I *hate* that look. It means we'll have an uncomfortable day or so until we all become friends, and by that time it will be time to go home. That's the big drawback to camp. You just start loving it and it's over.

After breakfast, a state officer jumped up and tried to make us have a good time. He gave a speech about "countless opportunities" I had heard before and as I sat there and tried to figure out what opportunities could possibly be waiting for me at Camp Spider Web, one word caught my ear: trivia. There was to be an FFA trivia contest the last day of camp.

"You know, Al, you should loosen up. Why don't you get to know some people? Someday you are going to grow up and camp will be ancient history."

I can take or leave parliamentary procedure and livestock judging, but throw me in the ring with a good piece of trivia and I'll talk your ears off. Most members of our chapter don't give a flip about how many words are in the creed or when the national band got new jackets. To me there is nothing more fascinating.

I made up my mind I would become trivia champion of Camp Washington.

I was quick to develop a strategy for the big win. I figured most people would trip up on the easy stuff because they would tend to study the fine print and forget the basics. While everybody else was off playing volleyball, I sat down with the manual and reread it cover to cover. I learned dates. I memorized national officers. I even knew the janitor's name at the National FFA Center. I was ready. I was unbeatable. I knew the trivia contest would be *my* moment.

On Thursday afternoon, we lay in our bunks before dinner. I studied while Mary Louise ate peanut M&M's, which she considers one of the four basic food groups. Mary Louise was taking a rare respite from her incredible reign of popularity. I felt sure she would have been named Queen of Camp if there had been such a thing.

"You know, Al," she crunched, "you should loosen up. You might as well spend a week at the Library of Congress. Why don't you get to know some people? Have a little fun. You don't get to camp all your life. Someday you are going to *grow up*, and camp will be ancient history."

"Fine," I murmured. "Do you know what year Coleman Harris became National Executive Secretary?"

"You're impossible," she said, turning back to her M&M's. That was okay. I needed full concentration.

The big day dawned early. Right after breakfast we walked into the rec hall and seated ourselves on those little tin chairs that look like they will collapse if anyone over 50 pounds sits on them.

Mr. State Officer, I think his name was Larry, stepped up and got us rolling. He divided us into four teams of 25 campers in separate corners of the hall. The rules said we had 25 seconds to agree on an answer as a team. The

By Shirley Jones

Camp

winning group would then compete against each other.

Our team was an easy first round winner, mainly because Buford Smiley of team number one announced the creed had nine paragraphs. Mary Louise and I, team members, smirked at each other. We had met Buford at an area contest last spring when he dumped a huge Coke all over her new black shoes. We live for poetic justice of this type.

Buford's blunder meant our team would now compete against each other. We lined the front of the hall.

The first question was good. Larry, whom I had decided was sharp after all, asked how national convention delegates were chosen. Contestants dropped like flies. One person suggested they were elected; not specific enough. Another wondered if it was the people who had made the most money off their SOE programs.

The question made its way toward me and I answered: a state chooses its delegates to fill the number of positions they are allotted. In most cases, those chosen are the president and other state officers. It garnered a yes from the referee and we moved on.

The next question concerned our camp. A confused-looking young FFA'er was asked who founded Camp Washington. I could tell he was in trouble when he started to sweat and his neck turned pink. He freaked out and answered, "Bullwinkle the Moose." I sensed trivia was not his game.

The questions ticked by. Who was the first national president? What year was the state convention moved into the new convention center? Why is the owl the symbol for advisors?

I was so absorbed in the action that I barely noticed we were losing players quickly. When I finally looked up to see who was left, I was stunned to see that Mary Louise and I were the only ones. It was incredible.

My question. Larry pulled the card out. "Alex," he said, "*What is the FFA?*"

My mind raced. What did he mean, what is the FFA? What a dumb question! I knew who the only Special Honorary American Farmer was, and he is asking me "What is FFA?"

No matter. The clock was ticking. "The FFA is the Future Farmers of America, an organization of high school students of vocational agriculture preparing for careers in agriculture," I recited.

I stepped back, feeling fairly proud. I wondered what they would ask Mary Louise.

I shouldn't have wasted the effort. I was wrong. The world was caving in. I was out. Mary Louise got the same question. If she got it right, she'd win. I watched in awe as she thought about her answer.

At last she said, "The FFA is the Future Farmers of America, an organization of *students* of vocational agriculture preparing for careers in agriculture."

You would have thought everyone in the place had just been awarded a million tax-free dollars. The applause nearly lifted the roof. And all for two lousy words: high school. "Sorry Alex, I just couldn't take it," Larry said. "FFA members don't have to be in high school to belong."

It was over. I'd blown it. And to top it off, I was beaten by someone who hadn't picked up an FFA manual for two months.

As I trudged up the hill I heard somebody shout, "Hey Al! Hold up!"

It was Mary Louise, all breathless from her victory, holding a little trophy.

"This is yours, you know."

"No, you won fair and square and in quite an admirable way," I said. "I deserve to lose after that question. I wasn't thinking. I got what I deserved."

"Friends?" she said.

"Friends," I said.

We were interrupted by a stream of campers en route to their buses and vans and home. They all seemed to be headed for the ends of the earth as they bid farewell to Mary Louise. Two of them were madly waving address books, three were planning national convention get-togethers, and that blithering Buford Smiley was sobbing something about never seeing each other again.

As I stood amidst them a strange leftout feeling washed over me.

And then it hit me. These people didn't care about trivia. They cared about each other. A lesson for me, I thought, as I climbed onto the bus and settled into my seat. I decided right then I would spend less time on trivia and more time making friends.

That night when I got home, I opened my suitcase and found that little trophy wrapped in paper with a note taped across it that said "Alex."

I smiled. •••

Training Winners

(Continued from Page 13)

Bill. "I got involved and stayed in it ever since."

His responsibilities greatly increased after he began work at Thomasma Stables in September of 1983. Bill juggled high school and work by way of a cooperative work arrangement through vocational agriculture class.

"Rob was looking for someone who could work into becoming stable manager within a few years," says Bill. "That's the goal I've been working for—more responsibility, more decision making."

Recently graduated, Bill devotes as much time as possible to horse-training. He's thinking about making it his career goal.

He works with only four of the 15 racers, but each horse's "personality" is enough to keep him on his toes.

"Each of them is completely different in every way," he says.

Mr. Thomasma says 16,000 Standardbreds are foaled each year in the United States. "Everybody's got a dream that they've got a racehorse," he smiles. "But about two-thirds of those never make it as equine athletes.

"This business is all black or white: you're either training winners or losers," he adds. "We see potential to make a winner, or we wouldn't spend the time on them."

One Thomasma horse in particular has done very well. "Wild Berry Kate," an energetic filly, has earned well over $100,000 in her two-year racing career. On the average, Mr. Thomasma says a racehorse competes for three to six years before "retiring."

Even so, Mr. Thomasma admits the business he's in is risky. "A proven winner like Wild Berry Kate is worth $150,000," he says. "But it's still a gamble. I may pay as much as $15,000 for an unproven horse with the *hope* that, with good training, it will become a winner."

THOMASMA: "Everybody's got a dream that they've got a racehorse. But two-thirds of those never make it as equine athletes."

Bill says one of the first questions a trainer answers is whether the horse is "traffic broken."

"That means does the horse have the ability to ignore distractions along the racetrack, like dogs or kids, the kind of thing found at local county fairgrounds," says Bill.

"There's also got to be a desire in the horse," he explains. "We call it 'Heart and Soul.' If they have that heart and soul, then it doesn't take much for us to make them a winner."

What happens to those not good enough for a racing career? "Most of those horses that don't make it to the races end up on the front end of Amish buggies," says Mr. Thomasma. "They'll sell for about $400."

Despite the challenge of training and the gamble of racing, both Mr. Thomasma and Bill say the business is worth it. "There's a real sense of satisfaction when a horse is trained properly," says Bill. "It's exciting to know you've helped train a winner."

Mr. Thomasma agrees. "I've done a lot of things for a living," he says, "but none have been this interesting." •••

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Rare Hogs Waddle Back Into Limelight

With the help of a young FFA alumni member, a breed of hog that was popular around the turn of the century is making a comeback.

Kirk Lee of rural Sherburn, Minnesota, first learned about Wenglar's Red Waddles from a story in *Farm Show* magazine in November, 1981. In December his brother Kent was traveling to Texas and decided to look up H.C. Wenglar, the man responsible for rebuilding the breed.

"He looked at them and liked what he saw, so he got a U-Haul and brought back an older boar, sow and five younger gilts," Lee said. They were the first hogs sold out of Texas.

The Waddles adapted well to the northern climate, Lee said. The sow, Mama Red, farrowed 11 pigs in March, 1982. By the spring of 1983, Lee had seven sows farrowing and had sold as many as he could to other hog producers interested in the breed.

Kirk Lee with some of the Red Waddles he has raised. Notice the fleshy waddle hanging below the jowl.

Red Waddles, named for the two fleshy waddles which hang from their jowls, were common in the southern United States when Wenglar was a boy. At that time vegetable oils were not readily available so hogs that produced lots of lard were desirable, thus the lean Waddles were out and fatter hogs were in.

After retiring, Wenglar remembered the good bacon and sausage from the Red Waddles on his father's farm and decided to raise them again, but he found the breed was nearly extinct. He managed to find a few wild Waddles in the rough back country of Texas and bred them. At the time Lee purchased his Waddles, there were only 100 in existence. Lee, who purchased one of Wenglar's original three sows, currently has a herd of 20 head.

"Waddles are a combination of the good mothering ability of white breeds with the good solid lean carcass of the meatier breeds," Lee said.

Lee raised crossbred hogs and chickens while an active member of the Sherburn High School FFA Chapter. He was also active on poultry, crops and general livestock judging teams and was awarded the State Farmer degree in 1980. He attended Concordia College in St. Paul, majoring in German and political science. As an FFA alumni member, he participated in the Work Experience Abroad program in Germany for six months. *(Mary L. Meyer)* •••

Commission Salesmen

The Finley, Washington, Chapter held a fertilizer sale in March of this year. We made $1,800 profit and the money was used to purchase an Apple II computer. Members participating in the sale received a 15 percent commission on their sales. Needless to say, it was a great hit with both the members and community.

The chapter also holds a cake auction at the annual parent-member banquet. The chapter pays only the cost of the supplies for the cakes. The money goes to help pay for students attending state convention. This year we made $575 to help us go to state. *(Rachelle St. Hilaire, Reporter)* •••

Futures Session

The Mississinawa Valley, Ohio, FFA Chapter recently held an eighth grade orientation.

As part of the ag olympics one eighth grader really dug into the pie eating contest.

The orientation started out with a seventh and eighth grade ag olympics conducted by the officers and advisors.

Officers talked about the duties of their office, fall fair, contests, public speaking, trips, conventions and then presented slides showing numerous activities in the FFA chapter. Then the eighth grade guests enjoyed cookies and punch along with a tour of the agriculture shop. *(Amy Powell, Reporter)* •••

(Continued on Page 45)

FACTS FOR ACTION
Once They Leave the Farm—What and Where?

America's farms have long been considered the source of another important crop—young people. For the past 40 years, the limited opportunities for farm employment, high farm birth rates and the appeals of city life have produced a mass exodus of farm children out of agriculture.

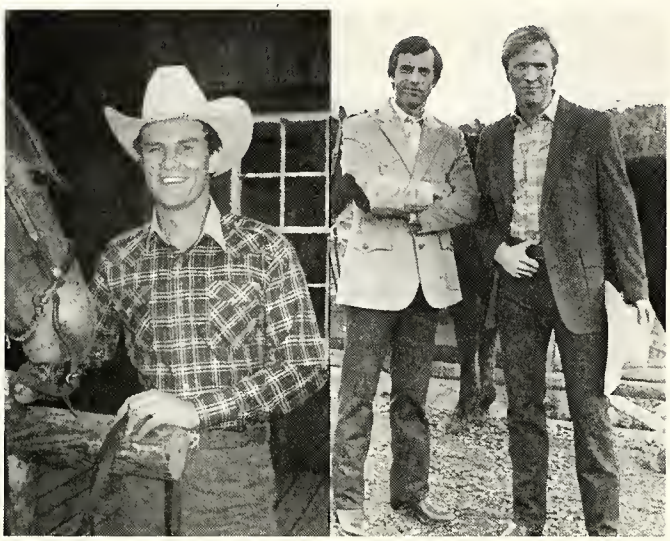
Despite the large numbers of farm youth who have moved from the farm and the impacts of these moves for both city and country, little has been known about who moves, where they move and precisely what they do, says Paul Lasley, an Iowa State University extension sociologist, who directs the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll.

To learn more about the social and residential mobility of farm-reared children—their education, occupation and current residence—several questions were included in a survey of Iowa farm families.

According to the researchers the survey shows that:

- Farm-reared children typically have more education than their parents. More than half the children had some post-high school education, compared to about one-third of the parents.
- Children of parents with larger farms more often had gone beyond high school than those from small farms. But a large number of children from all socio-economic levels—58 percent—continued their education beyond high school.
- Nearly one-third of the adult male children were farming—and nearly half of the sons of the largest-scale farmers were engaged in farming.
- For females, the most common occupation (about one-third of the daughters) was housewife. Professional occupations were the next most common, especially for daughters of the larger-scale farmers.
- Place of residence was strongly related to occupation. Almost half the adult children remained in their home communities. Sons engaged in farming were the most likely to be living nearby, while children in professional occupations were more likely to be living the farthest from home.

New Western Products



Clothing

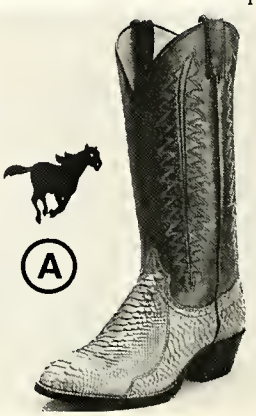
Left, Panhandle Slim introduces plaid shirts with contrast collar and button. Styled in 65 percent cotton/45 percent polyester, the shirt also features epaulets (shoulder straps) as an eye-catching accent. Right, Levi's offers two sharp western jackets: the Tucson Sportcoat, left, in a corduroy blend of 88 percent cotton/12 percent polyester, has western styling with front and back yolks and leather elbow patches; the Desperado Blazer, right, made of a unique new cotton fabric, gives the look and feel of suede and is available in tan, brandy and silver.

Leather Conditioner

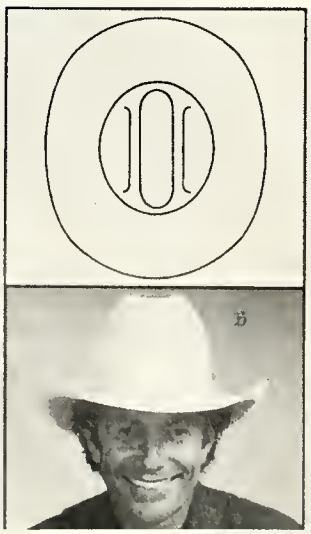
Right, LEXOL-*nf* is a unique formula for use on the finest leather. Its lubricants penetrate easily into wet or dry leather to maintain strength, durability and a warm finish.

Boots

Clockwise, A, Wrangler's Exotic Style with sand back-cut python foot, 13-inch deep dip caramel glazed lamb shaft, ¾-inch welt and #5 toe. B, the Nocona Old Spice Full Grain Veal boot features a 13-inch top with deep scallops and a thin-line cushion shank. C, Justin introduces the Super Roper, a casual style with broad-round toes, color coordinating stitching and block leather heels (available with matching belts). D, Larado's peanut brittle lizard print leather boot with narrow toe and cowboy heel. E, Tony Lama's Peanut Brittle Lizard features a golden sunburst stitch pattern and ½-inch higher heel than most cowboy boots. The preceding styles are available at most western wear stores in your area.



Hats



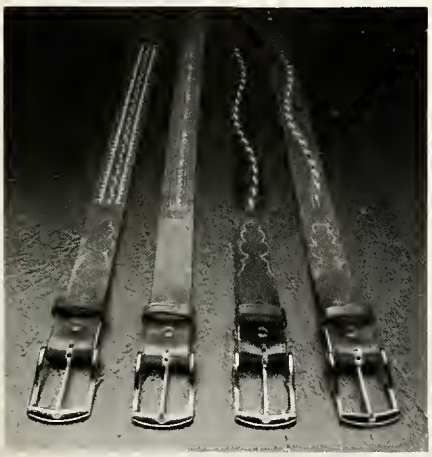
Left, Resistol introduces The Trimbrim, a hat which features "dimensional brims" that are narrower along the sides and longer in the front and back. Below, Bailey's durable "Futurity" in silver belly color has a 6½-inch crown, Hi Sierra crease and 4-inch raw edge brim.

Saddles

Above, Tex Tan's new "Trail Boss" has a tough rawhide covered roper tree and a padded 16-inch seat covered with light brown suede. Its rigging is in stainless steel.

Belts

Below, Justin offers three new belts: Aztec a man's belt in grey, black, tan and navy; The ladies peanut brittle lizard, also available in red; and the lizard ranger, offered in peanut brittle, black and chocolate. Bottom, Tony Lama introduces its new Gold Label belts which feature cording in addition to stitching. The 1½-inch styles are made of black europa, treebark europa and mahogany cowhide.



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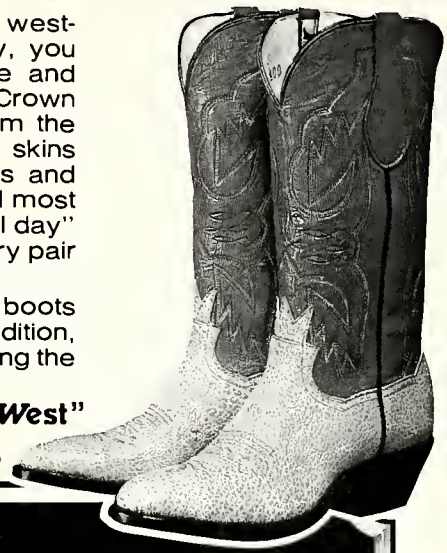

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 41)

Show Money

The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo awarded 15 full four-year scholarships in the amount of $6,000 each to Texas FFA and 4-H youth at the Stock Show and Rodeo's annual life members meeting held in May. Planning to pursue an agricultural or agribusiness education at a Texas college or university are recipient FFA members in the front row, left to right, Dana Kay Gunn, Bruce Mincher, Jeffrey Menn. FFA'ers in the back row, left to right, are Jimmy Nolan, Steve Rutherford, Hadley Reed, Morgan Norris. Others in the photo were 4-H recipients. •••

An Elementary Short Course

During the Oak Harbor, Ohio, Chapter's annual Food for America presentation at Carroll Elementary School, sophomore members talked and discussed livestock, crops, FFA and agriculture in general.

Gary Chambers started the program with his bantam partridge silkie. Heath Hennen then followed with a talk about his Pekin duck. Steve Hammond followed with a discussion about hogs and pork products. Dennis Buehler talked and showed some pictures of different breeds of beef cattle.

In the area of crops, Troy Pfeiffer talked about corn and corn pests common in our area. Brent Havens discussed the costs of soybean production. Neil Harder discussed about the types of wheat and planting information.

Scott Platzke and Mike Grodi talked and demonstrated about welding and welding equipment and other shop work along with safety. Randy Pfeiffer discussed about tractors and other farm machinery. Todd Hablitzel and Jeff Wendt talked about chapter activities, FFA awards, judging contests, record books and FFA jackets. *(Gary Chambers, Reporter)* •••

Shopper Stoppers

The Minnesota FFA and Minnesota Women for Ag kicked off National Ag Week in March with an FFA Children's Barnyard in four Minneapolis-St. Paul shopping centers. The Forest Lake, Chaska, Farmington and Elk River Chapters brought kittens, piglets, lambs, goats and also answered the questions of curious shoppers.

A "cowtail" party, held at the St. Paul YWCA gave business, political and agriculture leaders a chance to work together toward a common goal of helping their team win the cow milking contest. FFA member Lisa Schaffer, who is concurrently serving as American Royal Queen and Princess Kay, along with Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Nichols, headed two teams. Each member milked one minute with Lisa's team winning the competition. Dairy and other agricultural refreshments were served. •••

Fingerprinting

FFA members of the Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania, Chapter of Tyrone Area High School assisted the Knights of Columbus organization in a youth fingerprinting program. Over 540 local "kids" were fingerprinted. The FFA conducted a barnyard zoo and distributed Food for America materials plus dairy and milk promotion materials. •••

Flower Farmer

He's a flower farmer. From an old timer's standpoint, that's often not considered a part of agriculture. But from an FFA member's view, flower and vegetable production is a phase of the industry on the grow.

David Pachta, 1983 Star Agribusinessman of Kansas and a member of the Belleville FFA Chapter, became interested in horticulture when he helped his grandmother in the family garden. His interest was prodded in sixth grade, when his teacher, who also worked at a flower shop, taught him the basics of arranging flowers. Two years later he was working at a floral shop taking care of plants and making bouquets.

This led to starting his own flower business when he was a high school freshman and joined FFA. He bought silk flowers, made arrangements and doubled their cost when he sold them in the community. A year later, David added to his experience by going to work at the Belleville Greenhouse where he cared for plants and delivered and designed floral arrangements.

David's business also developed as he became known throughout the community, participating in flea markets and craft shows, always displaying his "Dave's Floral Design" poster. His diversified businesses helped him earn the state FFA proficiency award in floriculture. *(Frank J. Buchman. Reprinted from the* Kansas Future Farmer.*)* •••

Animals Teach Safety

In May, six Genoa, Ohio, members operated the first annual FFA animal farm at Camper Elementary School in Genoa. Over 140 grade schoolers gathered around to take part in this program. The animals included a pony, goat, chicken, rabbit, calf, lamb and a baby

Member Tom Snider showed Kelley Wahl how to handle and care for the goat.

pig. The FFA used this as an opportunity to teach livestock safety and handling. The Genoa FFA would like to use this as a stepping stone to build an outstanding safety program for the Genoa area. *(Blake Fofrich, Reporter)* •••

Pulling For Victory

On Sunday, May 20, the Waterford, Ohio, FFA held its annual tractor pull and attracted 124 tractors in seven different classes.

In the 4,500-pound class, first place went to Steve Ash with a pull of 2 feet, 7 inches. The final sled weight in this class was 9,500 pounds.

In the 6,000-pound class with the sled weighing 10,400 pounds, first went to Dennis Lang with a pull of 1 foot, 2 inches.

In the 8,000-pound class the sled weighed 15,750 pounds and first place went to Joe Pinkerton with a pull of 12 feet, 4 inches.

The 10,000-pound class pulled a final weight of 17,650 pounds and first place went to Bill Schaffer with a pull of 3 feet, 3 inches. In the 12,500-pound class with the sled weighing 24,200 pounds, first place was Dean Zimmer with a pull of 2 feet, 1 ½ inches. In the 15,000-pound class with the sled weighing 26,900 pounds, first place went to John Pinkerton with a full pull.

The final class was 18,000-pound pulling a sled weighing 28,000 pounds, first place was Dean Zimmer with a full pull. *(Bernard Bookman, Reporter)* •••

(Continued on Page 46)

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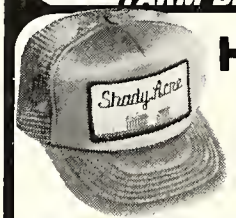

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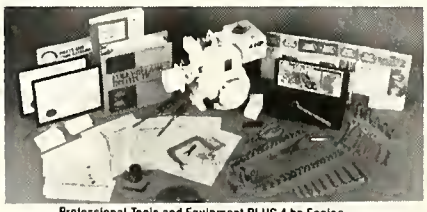

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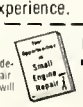

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FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 45)

Banquet Season

Every chapter in the FFA likely has some kind of banquet for members, parents and guests. Of the large number of reports sent in to editors of the magazine, here are some particularly newsy ones.

IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Mohawk, Pennsylvania, FFA Chapter held their annual banquet on Friday, April 13. Special guests were Duane Herr, regional vice president from Hershey and Brandon Weary, state chaplin from Newville. Toastmaster for the evening was our 1984-85 president Ken Shiderly.

Over 100 people attended this event. After the meal in the cafeteria the group attended the program in the auditorium. Speakers were Mark Shiderly on spring contests, Mike Ladesic on state contests, Mike Clark on Ohio Farm Science Review, Mark Denton on fund raising, Jennifer Cvetan on square dance teams, Brian Glass on demonstrations and Paul Henry on basketball tournament.

Chapter advisor Mr. Clifford Wallace gave out awards to the following: Mark Denton for sheep management; Mike Clark for beef finishing; Wes Boren for dairy beef finishing; Mark Shiderly for supervised work experience; Paul Henry for dairy production; and Brian Young for swine finishing.

The 1984 honorary members are Kevin Cowher and J. W. Laughner. J. W. Laughner was given special recognition and a special gold plaque for his excellence as a teacher for 36 years at Mohawk High School.

Mike Ladesic was awarded the Dekalb Award. Door prizes were donated by 11 local firms.

IN IOWA

On April 9 at 7:15 p.m. the 47th annual DeWitt Central, Iowa, FFA parent-member banquet got under way. Secretary Maureen Barber reported 251 members, parents and guests present.

The meal consisted of beef, pork, ham, escalloped potatoes, corn, cole slaw, rolls and butter, and pie for dessert. The meat was prepared by the Beef and Pork Producers; catering was done by Elaine Schoening; members of the freshman and sophomore classes were asked to bring a pie and the FHA served beverages.

Business session of the evening got started at 8:25 p.m. with a welcome and greeting. All special guests were introduced. Heidi Fatchett sang "Seems I'm Mighty Near To God" for the evening's entertainment.

A report of the chapter history was given by Jill Tobey. Maureen Barber gave her district winning speech "Those Who Labor In the Earth."

The retiring officers granted three couples and a business firm the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmer.

Mr. Smicker gave awards for most activities attended. Leadership awards were presented to Mike Ryan and Kevin Smith. Star Greenhand was Bob Burmeister and Star Chapter Farmer went to Ron Lippens. A new and special award was presented to Danny Trimble for Computers in Agriculture.

Alan Grau said the FFA Creed. Installation of officers was conducted. Closing ceremonies were conducted by newly installed President Maureen Barber at approximately 9:45 p.m.

IN OKLAHOMA

Friday, April 27 was the annual Roff, Oklahoma, banquet. Our guest speaker was Congressman Wes Watkins, a former state FFA president who still has a good background in agriculture and cares about the future of the FFA.

We had 35 members attend and 110 guests present. Several members received proficiency and public speaking awards. We saw slides from the Washington Conference Program and from our chapter's accomplishments. Then we had the installation of the new officers. Our new president then performed the closing ceremonies.

IN IDAHO

April 26 in the Meridian High School gym the Meridian, Idaho, FFA held its annual parent-member banquet. Jack Blattner was installed as the 1984-85 president.

Many seniors were rewarded for their work in the FFA, school and community service. Among these were Joe Lorcher who received the outstanding senior athlete award; Sue Smith was presented with the Dekalb Award for her committee work, projects, school efforts and FFA activities; the most improved FFA member went to Jenny Little for the leadership skills and work she has demonstrated; the Zamzow Senior Achievement Award went to Katy Cain for all the work she has done while in FFA; the outstanding FFA senior award went to Todd Hammons for his work and support that he has shown to all chapter members; the outstanding shop student award was presented to Doug Brotherson for the shop skills he has demonstrated.

This year's chapter officers paid tribute to our three advisors; Mr. Eldon Betz, Mr. Steve Wilder and Mr. Dean Langley

(Continued on Page 49)

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Leather belts are beautifully tooled with FFA emblems embossed. 2″ width tapered to 1½″ at each end. Sizes 26 to 46, black or brown. Leather buckle (also by Tony Lama) has stitched FFA initials as illustrated.

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Our new 1984-85 catalog will be mailed in mid-August to all chapters.

If ordering now, please include **FULL PAYMENT** plus **Handling Charges** and **applicable state tax.**

FFA in Action

(Pick up ACTION from Page 46)

with a slide presentation recalling their days as FFA members. The production was entitled "We're Not That Way Anymore." The chapter wrote "Alabama" about using their song and received a note from the country music entertainers of the year about it. *(Shon Eddlemon, Reporter)*

IN OHIO

The Elgin, Ohio, FFA held its annual parent-member recognition banquet on April 14. The theme was "Keeping America on the Grow." An elaborate stage setting was established to give the banquet that touch of spring. Master of ceremonies was Jon Clunk, president. The 1983-84 officer team marched into the banquet to the "Superman" theme. The welcome was given by Arlin Park and the response was by Mrs. Paula Everett.

The cleanup was done by Greenhand members. Introduction of guests was done by Chris Jones, reporter. David Trihaft recognized all the award sponsors and community people who have assisted the chapter during the past year. Bret Snyder was in charge of the outstanding service awards. This year's winners were: Mrs. Phyllis Carey for her contribution to chapter field trips and donation of eggs; Mrs. Barbara Snyder for chaperoning the chapter during the national convention; and Mrs. Janet Gerfen for her secretarial help during the year.

Honorary members installed in the chapter were: Mrs. Natalia Clunk for helping the past four years; Mr. Paul Trihaft for the use of his apples and cold storage the past four years; and Mr. Roger Imbody for use of farm machinery the past four years. This year's BOAC winner went to former teacher Mr. Tim Wiant for his help at the fair.

Darren Hicks presented awards for perfect attendance, fruit sales, best Greenhand tractor operator, star computer operator, star accounting and senior members of the month.

Former national public speaking winner Tim Hoberty gave a very motivational speech on leadership. A year in review slide presentation was shown with the help of Mr. Doug Loudenslager of Ohio Farmers.

Charley Beck, last year's president, presented the star member awards. This year's Star Greenhands were Danny Friend and Jason Swartz; star sophomore went to David Gerfen; star junior was Arlin Park; star senior and Star Chapter Farmer was David Trihaft.

Mr. Leon Snyder, chapter advisor, was given a shirt, tie and money clip as a token of appreciation. At the conclusion of the program, door prizes were drawn for those in attendance.

IN OREGON

April 25, the Camas Valley, Oregon, Chapter held their spring awards banquet. Chapter President Kenny Waddell opened the banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Leanne Bradshaw, state FFA treasurer, was the guest speaker at the banquet and spoke about personal development in the organization.

A slide show which outlined the chapter's participation in the Douglas County Fair and 56th annual state FFA convention was presented.

The night's festivities came to a close with the final tap of the gavel by new chapter President Trudy Carver.

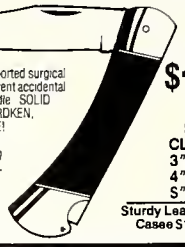
IN KENTUCKY

The Morgan County Chapter in West Liberty, Kentucky, held their annual parent-member banquet for over 200 parents, members and guests with chapter President John Oldfield presiding. Over 75 awards were given. Star Chapter Farmer award went to Sherry Ison. Star Greenhand award went to Offutt Lawson. Kentucky State FFA President Steve Meredith brought greetings from the association and also celebrated his 19th birthday. He was presented with a birthday cake. *(David Patrick, Reporter)*

ACTION LINES ► ► ►

- Tidy up the ag classroom before school starts.
- Wash and wax the chapter pickup. And maybe clean the livestock trailer and give it a coat of paint.
- Eat ice cream or play ball or have a tug-o-war with the local Alumni affiliate.
- Organize community volleyball, golf, swim or running events. Farm folks as well as town folks.
- Buy new shop coats.
- You can buy your own Supply Service catalog for $2.50.
- Are all of last year's seniors signed up to retain FFA membership?
- Wonder if anybody has created an FFA version of Trivial Pursuit?
- Bicycle care and safety are good program topics.
- Have you ever considered hosting an FFA international exchangee?
- Invite your seed or feed salesman to join the FFA Alumni.
- Use your camera and make photos for the school annual.
- Use a video camera to practice your talent act.
- Organize a barbershop quartet.
- Add green plants to the cafeteria.
- Involve Greenhands by offering to drive them to summer meetings.
- Give FFA litterbags to your relatives.

LIFETIME GUARANTEE



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The Joke Page

Did you hear about the man who tried to cross the ocean on a garden tool? He found it was a tough hoe to row.

Rhonda Staggs
Cross Plains, Tennessee

Carrot: *"What do you get when the Jolly Green Giant steps on your house?"*
Tomato: *"I don't know, what?"*
Carrot: *"You get mushed rooms."*

Ronald Richardson
Gable, South Carolina

A little boy, caught in mischief, was asked by his mother, *"How do you ever expect to get into heaven?"*

He thought for a moment and then said, *"Well, I'll just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'For goodness sakes, either come in or stay out!' Then I'll go in."*

Lynn Tobben
Union, Missouri

"I understand the school's athletic budget is in the red . . !"

A woman told a psychiatrist that her husband had become so addicted to dogs he how imagined himself to be one.

"Don't worry," the doctor told her. *"it's nothing serious."* *"I'm not so sure,"* the wife replied. *"He's already won three blue ribbons."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

A duck went into the drug store and asked the clerk if he had any Chapstick. The clerk said, *"Just a second, I'll be right back."* When the clerk returned, he said, *"Here is your Chapstick. Do you want to pay in cash or by check?"*

The duck said, *"No, put it on my bill."*

Kenny Dickens
Bascom, Florida

First I got a wooden whistle, but it wooden whistle, then I got a steel whistle, but it steel wouldn't whistle. Finally I got a tin whistle and now I tin whistle.

Kati Berry
Gresham, Oregon

Three turtles were sitting at a soda fountain. Each turtle ordered a soda, but it started to rain and they decided they needed their umbrella. The two larger turtles thought the smaller one should go home for an umbrella. He agreed to go if they wouldn't drink his soda while he was away. They said they wouldn't and he started for home. Three weeks past. Finally, one of the turtles said, *"Let's drink it."*

"Good idea," the other turtle said, *"let's do it."*

From the end of the soda fountain, near the door, a small voice said, *"If you do, I won't go home for the umbrella."*

Jeff Dennison
Capshaw, Alabama

Teacher asked, *"Does anyone know what George Washington said to his men before they crossed the Delaware?"*

John raised his hand with a smile on his face and said, *"Get in the boat."*

Don McDade
Point Pleasant, West Virginia

Joe: *"I'm never going to gamble again. Not as long as I live."*

Harry: *"You say it...but you really don't mean it."*

Joe: *"How much you want a bet?"*

Russell Vanzant
Mena, Arkansas

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?
A: A stick.

Jody Lathem
Grand Saline, Texas

Q: Do you know why the cross-eyed teacher got fired?
A: She couldn't control her pupils.

Caryn Latham
Roff, Oklahoma

A woman lion tamer had the cats under such control they took a lump of sugar from her lips upon command. When a skeptic yelled, *"Anyone can do that!"* the ringmaster came over and asked him, *"Would you like to try it?"*

"Certainly," said the man. *"But first get those crazy lions out of there."*

Tommy Ireland
Lebanon Junction, Kentucky

Q: Where do babies enlist?
A: Why, in the infantry, of course.

Jonathan Stanger
Christiansburg, Virginia

Charlie, the Greenhand

"Call me old-fashioned—I still like Brand X!"

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